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SHOPPERS DRUG MART
SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 31

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UNICEF CHIEF SAYS PRIME MINISTER CONTINUES TO DELIVER ON PLEDGE TO SAVE LIVES OF GIRLS AND WOMEN IN POOR COUNTRIES PAGES 16 & 17

Consummate artist Maya Angelou dies

Poet, author, dancer, singer and actress remembered for being a powerful soul; use Metro AR to hear her recite PAGE 29

Twitter rages over batch of lost women

Six reported missing in T.O. within 24 hours, sparking fresh outrage, though a police spokesman says it's not that unusual PAGE 4

Celeb kids face 'predatory sense of being hunted': Bell

Actress presses campaign against paparazzi photos of children of celebrities PAGE 27

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Would Tory's plan trump relief line?

New routes. Experts disagree on whether downtown relief line would still be needed

The chief of the TTC says John Tory's proposed surface rail line would not eliminate the need for a downtown relief-line subway. Other experts say it might.

TTC CEO Andy Byford said a new relief line would "absolutely" remain necessary, even if the city were to implement Tory's proposal to add a bevy of local stops to existing GO Transit tracks.

"All the figures show ... that whatever you do, there still is a need to add capacity in that critical corridor to relieve Yonge-Bloor station and to relieve pressure on the Yonge line. That hasn't gone away. That remains our No. 1 priority," Byford told reporters Wednesday.

He said the TTC endorses the idea of upgrading service on GO lines — but suggested such improvements should be made "in the interim" period before a relief line was built.

Tory is touting an $8-billion, 22-station, 53-kilometre above-ground line that would travel from Mississauga to Etobicoke to Union Station, up to Main Station on the Bloor-Danforth line, then through Scarborough up to Markham.

Eric Miller, a University of Toronto professor and transit expert, said he believes Tory's proposal would effectively keep commuters in the north-eastern suburbs away from the Yonge-Bloor choke point. He said the Tory line could indeed render a downtown relief line unnecessary.

"We probably need more analysis ... but my gut feeling is that, yes, in fact, it would," Miller said.

Paul Bedford, the city's former chief planner, agreed.

"I think that whole business has to be looked into and written about, but this actually does provide quite a bit of relief for the Yonge-Bloor situation. Not to say that maybe something else won't be needed way down the road, but it sure buys you a lot of time," he said.

Tory spoke of a "Yonge Street relief line" from the beginning of his campaign and strongly suggested, but did not explicitly say, that he was referring to a downtown relief line. His rivals, like Olivia Chow, say he flip-flopped when he unveiled a new plan.

"The reason Byford still says we need a relief line is because Tory's scheme is not one," said Chow spokesman Jamey Heath.

Tory said on CP24 he had simply promised a Yonge Street relief line.

"This is a Yonge Street relief line," he said simply.

Spokeswoman Amanda Galbraith said Tory agrees with Byford that "eventually there will be a need to build the downtown relief line." But she said his own plan is itself "delivering relief across the city, particularly along the overcrowded Yonge line."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Feasibility

All four of Tory's primary election rivals support the shorter downtown relief-line subway, which could also cost about $8 billion but take much longer to build.

- Tory said his line could be completed in seven years, an assertion Karen Stintz called unreasonable. The downtown relief line would likely not be complete for 17 years.

POLICE GO GANG BUSTERS

An OPP officer escorts a suspect into a cruiser at Toronto Police 41 Division after a series of early morning raids on Wednesday. The unusually wide sweep targeted two gangs — the Sic Thugs and Asian Assassinz — resulting in more than 50 arrests and a series of robbery, drug, trafficking and criminal-organization charges. Some criminologists and gang experts argue crackdowns actually make gangs more entrenched. Even the man that initiated anti-gang task forces — former attorney general Michael Bryant — seems to have changed his tune on get-tough gang strategy. See stories, page 3. RANDY RISLING/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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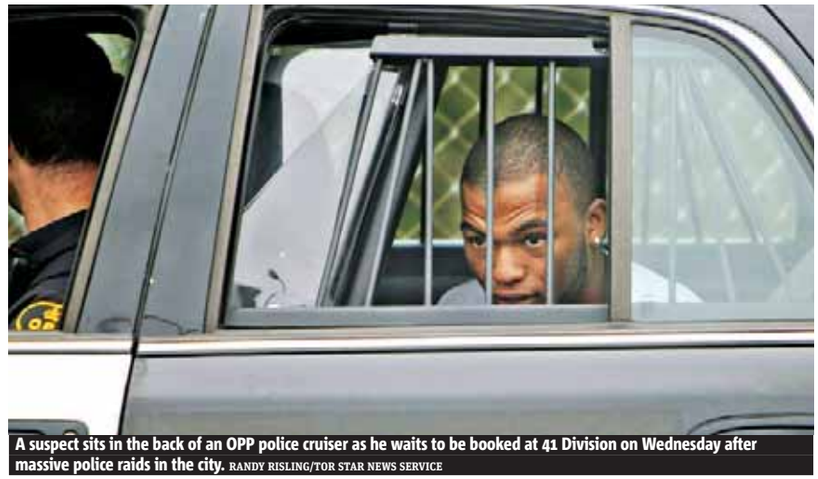
Raids target two rival gangs

Sic Thugs and Asian Assassinz. More than 50 arrested; guns, drugs and cash confiscated

Quoted

"These people who have been arrested couldn't organize a piss-up in a brewery."

Susan von Acthen, lawyer for many suspects



A suspect sits in the back of an OPP police cruiser as he waits to be booked at 41 Division on Wednesday after massive police raids in the city. RANDY RISLING/TOR STAR NEWS SERVICE

One is linked to the shooting that had bullets flying inside the bustling Eaton Centre food court in June 2012, killing two men and injuring six.

The other is connected to an execution-style killing outside Yorkdale Shopping Centre last spring, in which a killer waited in the parking lot for his intended targets.

Both gangs — known as Sic Thugs and Asian Assassinz — are "incredibly ruthless" and "sophisticated" rivals whose reach across Toronto is atypical of street-level crews, which usually have a small "criminal footprint," according to police.

As a result, early morning raids targeting the gangs Wednesday took place across the city, including Regent Park, Liberty Village and North York, and outside the GTA.

Officers from police forces across southern Ontario ultimately arrested more than 50 people and confiscated nine guns, along with cocaine, heroin, marijuana and large amounts of cash.

A total of 20 guns and 30 people had been arrested in the lead-up to the raids, the culmination of year-long investigations dubbed Projects RX and Battery.

Charges laid include criminal organization, trafficking of firearms, drugs and humans; firearm possession; armed robbery; and conspiracy to commit robbery. Because the gangs are believed to be tied to shootings across the city, homicide charges may be laid, acting police Chief Mark Saunders told a news conference Wednesday.

Susan von Acthen, the lawyer representing many suspects arrested in Regent Park on Wednesday, says there are so many charges of conspiracy to traffic cocaine or marijuana that she has "lost count."

As for gang involvement, von Acthen called it "nonsense."

"There is absolutely no gang affiliation. These are people who have known each other over the years on and off. There is not a gang," she said during a smoke break outside a Finch Avenue court, where many raid cases were heard Wednesday.

"There is no organization of any group by any leader to do any thing ... These people who have been arrested couldn't organize a piss-up in a brewery," she said.

Originally a barrister in England who has been representing clients from Regent Park for over a decade, von Acthen said she has doubts about the gang investigations.

"They're talking nonsense. They really ought to talk to me to learn what's going on on the streets," she said.

While Saunders did not go into detail about the nature of the gangs' rivalry, Michael Chettleburgh, a Toronto gangs and youth crimes expert, said its a matter of drug turf in a "very competitive market."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bryant changes tune on get-tough gang strategy

Michael Bryant. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ten years ago, Ontario's then-attorney general Michael Bryant announced he was forming an elite "gangbusters" squad of police and prosecutors to drive Toronto street gangs out of business and reduce gun violence.

"Gangs have become so diabolically sophisticated that we have to do things in different ways," Bryant said in early 2004.

Today, Bryant is no longer a believer of the "fairly radical" gang crackdown approach he once advocated around the Liberal cabinet table.

"I was looking at the prism of good guys and bad guys at the time and I didn't have the full picture that I have today," says Bryant.

Back in 2004, Bryant ushered in a decade of gang projects in Canada's largest city, the first, Project Impact, occurring in May that year, when hundreds of police officers across the GTA swooped down on the "known associates" of the Malvern Crew, a street gang operating in Toronto's east-end.

On Wednesday, after watching TV footage of the police raids as part of Projects RX and Battery, Bryant discussed how his perspective has shifted.

In 2004, the ex-politician says he pushed for beefed up spending on gang suppression as part of needed "emergency measures."

But now, enough time has passed that the province needs to evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the dozen or so multi-million-dollar, manpower-intensive wiretap operations that have led to the arrest and jailing of hundreds of Toronto residents, mainly from impoverished, racialized neighbourhoods.

"It's time for the government to review the decision made then, to review what it's done and what we could be doing now," Bryant says.

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Missing women spark web furor

Twitter. In wake of U.S. rampage, web readers seize on Toronto police news releases

Five of the six women reported missing by Toronto police: From left, 38-year-old Natasha McGregor, 28-year-old Carolyn Earp, 40-year-old Zhuo Luo, 15-year-old Marina Doulis and 17-year-old Emily Clancey. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

It started with a routine Toronto Police Service news release on Monday afternoon: 55-year-old Gemima Oldford had not been seen since Saturday night.

Hundreds of tweets later, the bulletin had been swept up in a wide-ranging online exchange about violence against women sparked by the shooting rampage in California.

On Tuesday morning Toronto police released four more names: Emily Clancey, 17, and Marina Doulis, 15; 38-year-old Natasha McGregor; and 28-year-old Carolyn Earp, all of them last reported seen on Monday.

On Tuesday afternoon, a sixth: Zhuo Luo, a 40-year-old woman last seen that afternoon, bringing the total to two girls and four women all announced as missing within 24 hours.

"It was a lot of people over a really short amount of time, and we wanted to make sure people knew about it," said Kathleen Pye, a PhD student at the University of New Brunswick.

Pye was one of the first of hundreds to tweet about the missing women and girls with the hashtag #torontowomen, which began trending in Canada.

Calls flooded into Toronto police wondering if there had been a mass abduction, which police said was not the case.

"We made it very clear that we had absolutely no evidence to suggest that there was any foul play," said Mark Pugash, the spokesperson for Toronto Police Services.

Pugash said there was no link between the cases, other than the two teenagers — Clancey and Doulis — who possibly were together when they were last seen.

There was nothing unusual about the number of women reported missing on the same day, Pugash said, estimating that up to 3,000 people are reported missing in Toronto annually. The majority are found quickly, he said.

One of the six, Zhuo Luo, was located the same day she was reported missing, though a news release did not go out until Wednesday when police were notified she had been found, Pugash said.

Those reassurances did not come soon enough, Pye said.

"Seeing six women going missing and really not hearing anything from the media and nothing from the police is really scary," she said.

Steph Guthrie, a Toronto feminist advocate, said the flurry of tweets was part of a larger conversation centred on the hashtag #YesAllWomen, which emerged in the aftermath of Friday's deadly rampage in Santa Barbara, Calif.

Six people were killed and 13 injured by Elliot Rodger, a 22-year-old who before the murders described his hatred for women in a misogynistic rant posted to YouTube.

"Frankly, people are raw right now. People are raw about violence against women," Guthrie said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"Seeing six women going missing and really not hearing anything from the media and nothing from the police is really scary."

PhD student Kathleen Pye

Happy Burger Week!

The Gladstone's beef burger, left, is made of ground beef, poblano-pepper-and-onion jam, smoked bacon, and St. Paulin cheese. The veggie option is made of marinated organic tempeh, onion rings, wild mushrooms, barbecue sauce and aged cheddar. From May 28 to 31, more than 60 restaurants are selling special $5 burgers as part of the Grid's annual Burger Week. On Burger Day, June 1, they'll be selling slider versions at Fort York. Burger sales benefit the Stop Community Food Centre. According to the Grid, last year there were 65,000 burgers sold during Burger Week and 42,000 sliders sold on Burger Day.

JESSICA SMITH CROSS/METRO

TTC board. Surplus may hold off fare hike

The TTC board wants the city to use a $47.7-million 2013 operating surplus to stave off a fare increase next year.

The board voted unanimously Wednesday in favour of TTC chair Maria Augimeri's motion asking the city to let it keep its surplus in a five-year reserve fund, so it could be applied to operating costs and long-term service planning.

Under the existing rules, the TTC has to give back any surplus to the city, with 75 per cent of it to go to capital projects.

This unexpected surplus from last year isn't a result of fare revenues or ridership gains. It comes from lower-than-anticipated WSIB costs, accident claim payouts and depreciation on capital assets.

Streetcar stops

The TTC also agreed to eliminate most of a list of 81 streetcar stops that don't fit within the stop spacing policy. Most streetcar stops are about 250 metres apart. By eliminating stops that are closer together, the TTC hopes to speed up its trip times and improve safety by dropping passengers near signalized crossings.

But Augimeri, who asked the board to support the reserve policy, said the surplus shows the TTC should never have raised fares this year.

"Instead of increasing fares, that money is better left in our customers' pockets. We can find efficiencies in our operation, as this surplus proves," said Augimeri, who voted against the fare increase.

Ex-TTC chair Karen Stintz moved that the surplus go to fend off a fare increase. She said the fare freeze wasn't a ploy to appeal to voters, but it's something she'll support if she wins the mayoral election this fall.

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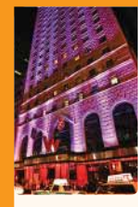

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Nuclear station overhaul risks are undersold: Expert

Darlington. Analysis done for Greenpeace on refit, set to start in 2016, criticizes Ontario Power Generation's analysis

A U.S. analyst says that the risks of overhauling the Darlington nuclear station have been severely understated by Ontario Power Generation.

In an analysis prepared for Greenpeace, Gordon Thompson argues that if an appropriate risk premium were charged, then power from Darlington would probably not be competitive in current markets.

Darlington is due for a mid-life refit starting in 2016. It is designed to prolong the life of the station by 30 years.

The project, priced at about $10 billion in 2013 dollars, includes removing and replacing the hundreds of tubes containing uranium fuel that run through the heart of each reactor.

Thompson says that in assessing the continued operation of Darlington, OPG has not considered the possibility of some severe, if unlikely, accidents that would spread radiation over a wide area.

He also says OPG's analysis doesn't adequately address "program risks," where the facilities simply don't work the way they were designed to.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Risk

"Ontario's unusual practice of sharing a single safety system among four or eight reactors means that the potential for multi-unit incidents is especially high in Ontario."

Writes Gordon Thompson, of what he sees as a crucial omission on OPG's part.

Where is Metro Scratch and Sniff when you need it? You can *almost* smell the pot wafting out of this photo

American singer/songwriter Jack Johnson brought his feel-good-all-over show to the first Molson Canadian Amphitheatre of the season on Wednesday night, helping to mark the venue's 20th anniversary with his From Here to Now You 2014 tour. Johnson's chill-out performance was much-applauded by the sold-out house, especially for hits such as Sitting, Waiting, Wishing and If I Had Eyes. TOM PANDI/FOR METRO

Worst roads. Dufferin drivers still sufferin'

Dufferin Street has defended its title as the worst road in Ontario for the third year running.

That's not the limit of the Big Smoke's presence on the list: 7 of the top 10 worst roads are in Toronto, the Canadian Automobile Association says, up from four last year. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Top 5 worst roads in Ontario

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5. Burlington St. E. Hamilton

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Post-audit. Turf Sony Centre board: Committee

Toronto is moving to turf the Sony Centre board in the wake of a scathing audit of the city-owned theatre, which has seen renovation costs balloon to $40 million from $28.5 million with minimal city oversight.

City council's audit committee recommended Wednesday that the 13-member board be replaced by an interim six-person body that would pick a new chief executive officer for the downtown theatre.

Council will decide at its next meeting June 10 and 11.

Auditor General Jeff Griffiths stressed that the city needs to monitor a major renovation like this one to ensure city policies on procurement and construction management are followed.

"I find it astounding that the city had no involvement whatsoever in the project," Griffiths said. "Obviously, they (city) were aware that the project was taking place but they decided to take a hands-off approach."

Current chief executive Dan Brambilla, scheduled to leave June 30, attended the audit committee at city hall. He refused to speak to reporters.

The committee voted unanimously for Coun. Shelley Carroll's motion that the old board be replaced by a new six-person board of three councillors and three senior city staffers.

Carroll said the new board will provide interim management control, hire a new chief executive and start reviewing the theatre's operating agreement with the city that hasn't been updated since 1968.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Possible changes

- Coun. Paula Fletcher, who would lose her seat on the Sony Centre board if council approves a new body, said she agrees with the proposal.
- Coun. David Shiner, who would also lose his seat, said the renovations were carried out largely under the board that was in place from 2006 to 2010.

..... and ma-ny more

Campaign workers held a birthday party for Mayor Rob Ford, 45, in his absence on Wednesday at his Scarborough campaign office headquarters. Ford was not there for his, but mayoral candidate John Tory celebrated his 60th the same day, using the party as a fundraiser, collecting $10 admittance at the North York Novotel.

KEITH BEATY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Indiegogo campaign

Esther the Wonder Pig wants new digs

Esther the Wonder Pig is moving on up.

The owners of the 500 lb. "mini-pig" have started an Indiegogo campaign to build a farm sanctuary for their beloved pet and others like her, and they've already raised more than $150,000.

Esther lives with Steve Jenkins and Derek Walter in Georgetown.

Originally bought under the guise of being a miniature pig, Esther has inspired her owners to become vegans, animal advocates and now, potentially, key holders to their very own sanctuary.

The farm costs $905,000 and the campaign's goal is $400,000. It ends on June 30. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Esther the Wonder Pig FACEBOOK

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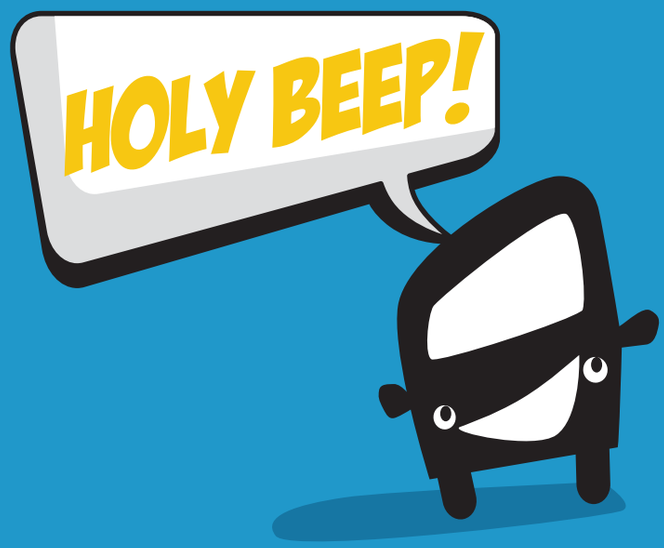

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Sen. Romeo Dallaire resigning to focus on humanitarian causes

'An extraordinary Canadian.' Former UN commander in Rwanda will serve last day in the upper chamber on June 17

Liberal Sen. Romeo Dallaire, a career soldier best known in Canada as the former commander of the UN's ill-fated peacekeeping mission in Rwanda, is resigning — not retiring, he insists — from the upper chamber.

Dallaire's last day in the Senate will be June 17, after which he intends to focus attention on a growing portfolio of international humanitarian work, the square-jawed senator told a news conference Wednesday.

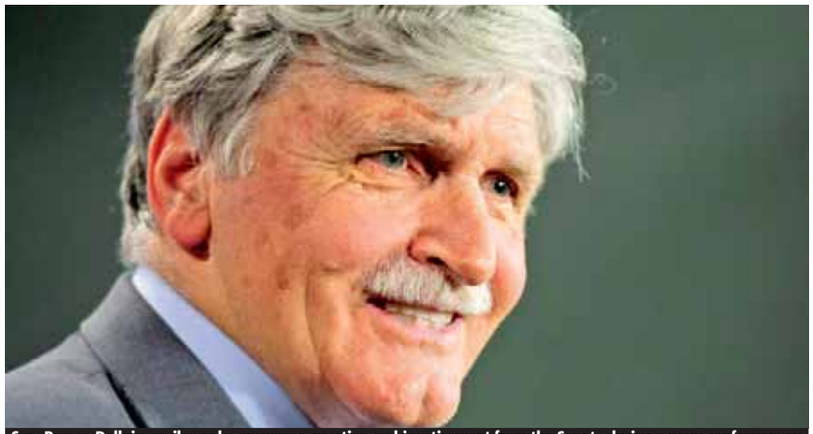
The decision has nothing to do with either the shadow of scandal that has loomed over the Senate for more than a year, or with the Rwandan-born post-traumatic stress disorder that has haunted him for 20 years, he said.

Rather, the 68-year-old Dallaire said he felt there simply wasn't enough time in his schedule to be a senator while also pursuing causes close to his heart that are related to defence and human rights in the international arena.

"I have an awful lot of work ahead of me, and it was important for me to leave at this point."

Dallaire said resigning has left him with a "torn heart" because his nine years in the Senate allowed him to champion issues including veterans and their families, a strong military to help ensure global peace, anti-terrorism, aboriginal rights and better intelligence oversight.

"I think it was a very useful instrument for me to advance things I believe in," he said.



Sen. Romeo Dallaire smiles as he answers a question on his retirement from the Senate during a news conference on Parliament Hill on Wednesday in Ottawa. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

While Dallaire's news came as a surprise, it was quickly followed by glowing praise from all political quarters.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper thanked the senator via Twitter for his service, Conservative Sen. Hugh Segal said he was "devastated" to hear of his colleague's decision, calling it "a huge loss," and NDP Leader Tom Mulcair called Dallaire "an extraordinary Canadian."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Intelligence

Sen. Dallaire says trust committee with secrets

Sen. Romeo Dallaire says a fear of sensitive leaks is not a good reason to scrap the idea of a full-fledged national security committee of parliamentarians.

Dallaire said Wednesday that an all-party committee could be trusted to safeguard intelligence secrets.

Some MPs and senators say they cannot hold intelligence services fully to account because they lack clearance to see secret information.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Canadian spy agency collects personal info in name of cyberdefence

Privacy. Data, including names, email addresses, may be kept for 30 years

Canada's electronic spy agency says it gathers and sometimes keeps personal information — including names and email addresses of Canadians — as part of efforts to protect vital networks from cyberattacks.

Communications Security Establishment Canada maintains an information bank containing the personal information of "potentially any individual" who communicates electronically with a key federal computer network while CSEC is assessing its vulnerability.

Information in the bank — known as CSEC PPU 007 — is held for up to 30 years before being transferred to Library and Archives Canada, says a description in the federal Info Source guide, which lists the various categories of personal information held by the government.

"Personal information may be used to assess potential threats to information technology systems subject to the assessment, and to help ensure the security of these electronic systems," the notice says.

The listing sheds light on a little-known aspect of CSEC's work: threat assessments and technical analyses aimed at strengthening federal defences against foreign cyberattacks on government computers.

Records recently obtained under the Access to Information Act say CSEC planned to focus its cyberdefence operations in 2012-13 on its own computer networks and those of three other federal institutions: National Defence, Foreign Affairs and Shared Services Canada, which administers the federal secure communication channel, known as SC Net.

The Info Source listing says personal information collected by CSEC during cyberdefence efforts may include a person's full name, email address, Internet Protocol (IP) address and any incidental personal details contained in electronic routing codes, or metadata.

Information from the databank may be shared with domestic police agencies "or foreign bodies" in keeping with formal agreements, the listing says.

The foreign bodies are surely CSEC's Five Eyes partners — the U.S. NSA and similar agencies in Britain, Australia and New Zealand, said Wesley Wark, a visiting professor at the University of Ottawa.

Wark called it "remarkable" that information can be held for 30 years.

"What this material does not tell us, of course, is the extent of the personal information held as a result of cybersecurity activities," he noted.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sorry, that's not how you become a polar bear

A black bear north of Shellbrook, Sask., decided to take a power nap atop a power pole last Friday after he escaped a pair of dogs. According to a SaskPower spokesperson, a customer alerted the company to the animal, and crews were then dispatched to check out the bedtime bear. "It's kind of an unusual thing," the spokesman said. "He did manage to get down from the pole safely, and is not injured as far as we know and didn't do any damage to the pole or cause any sort of power outage." COURTESY SASKPOWER

Manitoba

Lodge owner sorry for brochure that says not to give alcohol to natives

The owner of a Manitoba fishing lodge apologized Wednesday for comments in his visitors guide that said aboriginals can't handle alcohol.

"It was a total mistake and should not have been in there. It's an old trip planning guide that I've used for like 15 years and I had no idea that that was even in there," Brent Fleck of Laurie River Lodge said.

The lodge's Facebook page was filled with angry comments over a section of the brochure that warns guests not to give alcohol to aboriginal guides. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Skin cancer survivors warn it could happen to you

Take precautions. Though the incidences of some cancers are declining, melanoma cases are on the rise

Cancer survivor Caitlin Jones was an avid indoor tanner until she discovered that a spot on her forehead was basel cell carcinoma. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ian Anderson is one of the 2.5 per cent.

After his first diagnosis of melanoma, the Brampton, Ont., man was told that without immediate treatment he would be dead within two months. After his second, he was informed that if 100 people were in his shoes, 97.5 would not make it to the five-year mark, the standard measuring stick for beating a cancer.

Nineteen years after the second occurrence, Anderson, now 56, is still around to tell the tale — in his ever-present hat and sunscreen, which he slathers on religiously.

"I'm living proof that it can happen," says Anderson, who now counsels people diagnosed with melanoma.

Anderson's story is one of optimism, but also of reality. While he's living proof some lucky people can survive Stage 4 melanoma, he is also confirmation that people who don't take sun precautions can develop the deadly disease.

Another survivor, Caitlin Jones, was an avid indoor tanner until she discovered at age 23 that a spot on her forehead just below her hair line was basel cell carcinoma, which comprises about four out of five non-melanoma skin cancers.

Jones had surgery to remove a quarter-sized piece of skin to excise the cancer — a procedure that altered her view on tanning. She notes that around the same time some of her friends' parents were also dealing with skin cancers.

The Canadian Cancer Society worries that more people will hear the kinds of frightening diagnoses Anderson and Jones did in the future.

That's because skin cancers — particularly melanoma — are the most common in Canada. While the incidences of some cancers are actually going down, melanoma cases are on the rise, in both women and men. THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

Some estimates about cancer in Canada this year:

- **6,500.** Number of new melanoma cases. Of those, 1,050 Canadians will die from this form of cancer.
- **191,300.** Number of new overall cancer diagnoses. Of those, 76,600 Canadians will die from some sort of cancer.

PBDEs. Chemicals linked to lower IQ in children, B.C. researchers say

Researchers in B.C. say lower IQ and greater hyperactivity in young children appears to be significantly linked to a woman's exposure to flame retardants during early pregnancy.

The Simon Fraser University study found there's an association between women being exposed to a 10-fold increase of certain chemicals when their baby's brain is developing and a 4.5-point drop in the standard measure of intelligence.

The chemicals of concern are polybrominated diphenyl ethers, known as PBDEs, which have been widely used to prevent the spread of fire in furniture, carpet padding and car seats..

Researcher and health sciences Prof. Bruce Lanphear says North Americans are likely exposed to higher amounts of PBDEs than people in other parts of the world, and it could take decades to flush the chemicals from their environments.

The study suggests the impact of the chemicals is comparable to exposure to lead, which was once used in various products including paint and pipes in homes and offices.

The long-term study, published online in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives, followed more than 300 U.S. women from 16 weeks of pregnancy to when their children were five years old. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Top places to find PBDEs

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2. Transportation electronic components, automobile fabrics and plastics
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Fontana defends himself on stand at fraud trial

'Stupid' mistake.
RCMP charged London, Ont., mayor because they believe he was trying to skim $1,700 from public purse

SCOTT TAYLOR
Metro in London, Ont.

The judge presiding over the criminal trial of London, Ont., Mayor Joe Fontana has given the defence reason to believe that its case has made an impression.

After testimony ended Wednesday, Superior Court Justice Bruce Thomas told both sides to be prepared to focus their final submissions on only one of the three charges Fontana is facing.

London, Ont., Mayor Joe Fontana walks to court Wednesday, Day 3 of his trial. DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fontana is charged with fraud under $5,000, breach of trust by a public official and uttering forged documents in connection with a $1,700 cheque from Public Works Canada.

The Crown alleges he intended to pocket the money to make up for a deposit he paid on his son's June 2005 wedding reception at the Marconi Club.

But Thomas said on Wednesday that, should he accept the defence's argument that Fontana made a self-admitted "stupid" mistake and had no criminal intent, both sides should be prepared to argue whether Fontana forged a document. Defence witnesses corroborated Fontana's story.

The RCMP charged Fontana because they believe he was trying to skim $1,700 off the public purse for himself.

When Fontana testified in his own defence, he denied Assistant Crown Attorney Tim Zuber's accusation that he was trying to fool Ottawa bureaucrats into reimbursing him

The case will wrap up Thursday.

New crew off to space station

In this photo the Soyuz-FG rocket booster with the Soyuz TMA-13M space ship blasts off at the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. The Soyuz booster rocket lifted off as scheduled at 1:57 a.m., local time, on Thursday, carrying a new crew to the International Space Station.
DMITRY LOVETSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Somalia

Female soldiers joining the army

It's unusual to see a female in the military in traditionally conservative Somali society. But several determined women are joining the army.

Somali officials report female army recruits have increased following the ouster from the capital in 2011 of the Islamic extremist rebels of al-Shabab. According to estimates, about 1,500 women are now in the military of 20,000.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. policy

Drone strikes to continue: Obama

Barack Obama said Wednesday he will continue to "take direct action" by ordering drone strikes and capture operations. The U.S. president also restated a policy disclosed last May that drone strikes will not occur unless there's "near certainty" that civilians will not be harmed. Strikes have been carried out in Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel risks apartheid: de Klerk

Nobel Prize laureate and former South African president Frederik Willem de Klerk.
JUNJI KUROKAWA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Palestinian autonomy. Former South African president warns Israel of consequences of having one state for two peoples

South Africa's last president under white rule has suggested that Israel risks heading toward apartheid if it does not reach a peace deal with the Palestinians.

The comments by F.W. de Klerk echo warnings made by Palestinian, American and dovish Israeli officials. But his words carry special meaning, given his role in South Africa's painful history of race relations.

De Klerk was the last president under apartheid and, along with the late Nelson Mandela, brought about the end to decades of systematic racial discrimination against blacks, jointly winning the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize.

Comparisons to South Africa's racist rule have increased in public discourse about Israel and its treatment of Palestinians. In April, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry — who had been mediating negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians — set off an uproar when he made a similar warning.

In an interview aired Tuesday on Israeli Channel 2 TV, de Klerk said calling Israel an apartheid state now was "unfair." But he said that without the establishment of a Palestinian state, Israel may have to contend with the consequences of one state for both peoples.

De Klerk was in Israel receiving an honorary doctorate from the University of Haifa.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Facebook

Prosecutor says Zuckerberg will not appear in Iranian court

An Iranian prosecutor has denied reports that a local judge ordered Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg to appear in court to answer complaints by individuals who say Facebook-owned applications Instagram and Whatsapp violate their privacy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Central African Republic

Muslim militants attack church

Muslim rebels used guns and grenades as they stormed a Catholic church compound in the capital of Central African Republic on Wednesday, killing as many as 30 people, witnesses said.

The attack on the compound at the Church of Fatima is the largest blamed on Muslim fighters since their Seleka coalition was ousted from power nearly five months ago.

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New aim in climate change fight

Environmental groups have fired legal warning shots at major energy companies over their alleged role in funding climate change denial and blocking climate-friendly legislation.

Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund have sent letters to international and Canadian companies asking how they manage public communication on climate change.

They say spreading misinformation could leave company officers open to legal liability.

Keith Stewart of Greenpeace Canada says the letters are the first step in a long-term campaign to use the law to prevent the energy industry from delaying action on climate change.

He says the strategy was inspired by the ultimately successful campaign to make tobacco companies liable for sowing doubt about the health effects of their products.

Quoted

"We're laying the groundwork for court cases to come."

Keith Stewart of Greenpeace Canada

The letter has been sent to five Canadian companies: Suncor, Talisman Energy, Husky Energy, EnCana and Canadian Natural Resources.

It has also gone out to 45 multinationals, including many with operations or subsidiaries in Canada.

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Sara Schulz, World Vision's child health policy adviser, who is eight months pregnant, aims to urge world leaders to focus on the millions of "invisible" children and women

UNICEF's Canada

Maternal health summit. UN Children's Fund head lauds courage of Nigerian schoolgirls as conference opens

Efforts to improve the health of newborns and their mothers in poor countries must also include protecting them from violence, such as the terror caused by Boko Haram in Nigeria, says the head of the UN Children's Fund.

UNICEF chief Anthony Lake offered that assessment in an interview Wednesday with The Canadian Press prior to the opening of Stephen Harper's international conference on maternal, newborn and child health.

Lake lauded the prime minister's leadership in helping children and mothers in developing countries as he heaped praise on the courage of the teenage girls kidnapped by Boko Haram in northern Nigeria.

He said he would raise his concerns about child protection in a private meeting later Wednesday with Harper's international development minister, Christian Paradis.

"Paradis is passionate about the protection issue," Lake said in a wide-ranging interview.

As for Harper, Lake said: "He has led the way on this and Canada has delivered and is delivering, again 80 per cent of its commitment at Muskoka."

Harper unveiled the Muskoka Initiative at the G8 summit Canada hosted in 2010, and it has become the government's signature development priority. Harper committed $2.8 billion over five years to the issue in 2010, but a coalition of Canadian agencies is calling on him to up the ante to $3.25 billion.

At a side event Wednesday at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, the government announced a $98-million contribution to the UN World Food Program to improve nutrition, a key area that Canada's programming on kids and moms is targeting. THE CANADIAN PRESS

helps to set up a striking display in downtown Toronto, on Wednesday. The installation who die each year of preventable causes. WORLD VISION CANADA/THE CANADIAN PRESS

chief says delivers

Threat to girls' education

Kidnapping highlights larger issue

The Boko Haram kidnapping was on the minds of many at the three-day summit on maternal and child health, which will hear from philanthropist Melinda Gates, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the Aga Khan and Queen Rania of Jordan.

UNICEF chief Anthony Lake said the Nigerian kidnapping draws attention to one of the underlying causes of the health threats faced by young mothers and girls in impoverished, war-torn countries: the importance of overcoming the threat to girls' education posed by militant groups.

"The words almost fail me about how strongly I feel about this," said Lake, who has been a senior adviser to U.S. presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton.

"These are not victims. These are people who are acting with greater courage than I think you or I could probably summon under horrendous circumstances. And we shouldn't be condescending to them by saying we are saving them. We are supporting them."

Lake suggested western donors, weary of funding one crisis after another, should adjust their view of people in developing countries who persevere in the face of dire circumstances, including natural disasters.

Lake and other high-profile guests are to address the conference in the coming days, where Harper is expected to announce more funds.

Since 1990, the deaths of mothers in childbirth and among under age five children have been cut in half, but each year, 2.9 million newborn babies die, while 2.6 million are stillborn, mostly in African countries. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reunion for Congolese adoptees

Thirty-one children who had been blocked for months from leaving Congo with their adoptive parents arrived in Rome on Wednesday aboard an Italian government plane for a joyful, long delayed reunion with their new families.

The children ran excitedly into their parents' arms at Ciampino airport after an overnight flight from the western African nation. Congo suspended all international adoptions last year, citing fears some children might later have been trafficked.

None of the allegations involved adoptions by Italians, and Italy's premier personally intervened in the case.

Maria Elena Boschi, an Italian government minister who accompanied the children from Congo, said "they went crazy when, from the plane's windows, they spotted their parents" waiting on the tarmac.

The mother of two of the children, girls ages 7 and 9, was ecstatic. "Happiness, happiness. I saw my two children. I kissed them and I hugged them," said Laura Mancinelli.

The parents were forced to leave Congo without their children when their visas expired, after spending months there waiting for final paperwork and hoping for a policy change from the Congolese government. The children stayed behind in the care of Italian nuns.

Boschi sported a braid woven into her hair by one of the girls during the flight. She said all the children are healthy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Syria holds election amid political unrest

Third term? Expat voting as far away as Brazil became a show of support for Assad

Syrians living in Lebanon gather on Wednesday in front of the embassy to vote in the election in Yarze, east of Beirut. BILAL HUSSEIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tens of thousands of supporters of Syrian President Bashar Assad voted Wednesday at embassies abroad, clogging entrances to the Lebanese capital for hours and clashing with soldiers overwhelmed by their sheer numbers a week before national elections widely expected to give him a third seven-year term.

But reflecting the schism within Syrian society, many of the estimated 2.5 million refugees scattered across neighbouring countries were either excluded or abstained from the balloting, which they deem a mockery because it is being held in the middle of a civil war.

Backed by Iranian allies and the Lebanese Hezbollah group, Assad has gained the upper hand. He has maintained support among large sections of the population, particularly Christians, Alawites and religious minorities.

Expat voting in countries as far as Brazil turned into a show of support for Assad. A few countries barred voting, citing an international convention giving the host government the authority to decide whether to allow an embassy to conduct elections.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. may boost support

In a move that would boost U.S. support to rebels, the White House may soon sign off on a project to train and equip moderate forces.

- President Obama is weighing sending American troops to Jordan as part of a training mission for the Free Syrian Army.

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Heritage Place
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Seaway Mall
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Sheridan Centre
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Stone Road Mall
Tecumseh Mall
Toronto Eaton Centre
Upper Canada Mall
Vaughan Mills
White Oaks Mall
Woodbine Centre
Yorkdale Mall

Mom, 4 kids live to tell tale of deer that fell on minivan

Vehicle totalled, but occupants survive.
Witnesses saw doe jump from overpass onto van travelling at over 110 km/h

A suburban Chicago woman is grateful her family is safe after a 90-kilogram deer leapt from an overpass, landing on their minivan as it travelled along a highway.

Heidi Conner tells The (Arlington Heights) Daily Herald that the doe came to rest in the middle of the family's Chevy on Sunday. She and her four children were travelling at over 110 km/h. She says the accident was bizarre, adding "nobody can believe this deer fell from the sky."

Illinois State Police say witnesses reported seeing the deer jump from an overpass onto the vehicle below.

Heidi Conner describes how a 90-kilogram deer leapt from an overpass and landed on her minivan as she and her four children travelled along an Illinois highway on Sunday. Conner says the accident totaled the van and caused minor injuries. DAILY HERALD, RICK WEST/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Conner says the crash totalled the van and caused minor injuries.

Police say the animal died.

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Quoted

"Nobody can believe this deer fell from the sky."
Heidi Conner

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Record acquisition.
Apple purchases Beats Electronics for $3 billion

Apple is striking a new chord with a $3 billion US acquisition of Beats Electronics, a headphone and music streaming specialist that also brings the swagger of rapper Dr. Dre and recording impresario Jimmy Iovine.

Wednesday's announcement comes nearly three weeks after deal negotiations were leaked to the media. It's by far the most expensive acquisition in Apple's 38-year history, a price that the company is paying to counter a threat posed to its iTunes store.

The price consists of $2.6 billion in cash and $400 million in Apple stock that will vest over an unspecified time period. The deal is expected to close before the end of September.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Apple announced Wednesday it is acquiring Beats Electronics for $3 billion US. MICHAEL DWYER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

The robots *are* taking over ... the driving of cars

Stranger than science fiction. Sorry, no flying cars or transporters just yet, but Google speeds ahead with a pretty cool self-driving car prototype

Google will build a car without a steering wheel.

It doesn't need one because it drives itself.

The two-seater won't be sold publicly, but Google said Tuesday it hopes by this time next year, 100 prototypes will be on public roads. Though not driving very quickly — the top speed would be 25 miles per hour.

The cars are a natural next step for Google, which already has driven hundreds of thousands of miles in California with Lexus SUVs and Toyota Priuses outfitted with a combination of sensors and computers.

Those cars have Google-employed "safety drivers" behind the wheel in case of emergency. The new cars would eliminate the driver from the task of driving.

No steering wheel, no brake and gas pedals. Instead, buttons for go and stop.

"It reminded me of catching a chairlift by yourself, a bit of solitude I found really enjoyable," Sergey Brin, co-founder of Google, told a Southern California tech conference Tuesday evening of his first ride, according to a transcript.

The electric-powered car is compact and bubble-shaped — something that might move people around a corporate campus or congested downtown.

Google is unlikely to go deeply into auto manufacturing. In unveiling the prototype, the company emphasized partnering with other firms.

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The future is now. Here is a very early version of Google's prototype self-driving car. GOOGLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Location: Brampton Soccer Centre
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Games begin at 9:30 a.m.
Closing Ceremony & Awards
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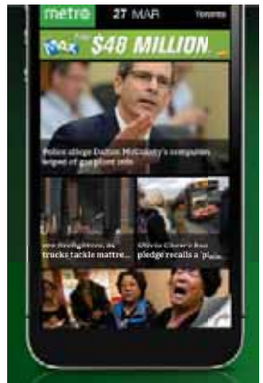

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Natural gas: $4.60 US (+$0.10)
Dow Jones: 16,633.18 (-42.32)

Valeant Pharmaceuticals

Quebec company ups its bid price for Botox maker

Valeant Pharmaceuticals increased its hostile offer to buy Botox-maker Allergan on Wednesday and threatened to bypass the board by taking it directly to shareholders.

However analysts suggested, Valeant may have to raise its offer again.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ruffing ridiculous remembrances

Beloved family pets memorialized with statues at the Los Angeles Pet Cemetery in Calabasas, Calif. Some people saying goodbye to a beloved cat or dog spend big bucks, with businesses sending their pet's remains to the bottom of the sea or letting them fly high into the sky. NICK UT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CEO of Exxon Mobil

'Business as usual' in Russia despite sanctions: Exxon

The CEO of Exxon Mobil says U.S. sanctions against Russian officials are having no effect on his company's activities there.

Rex Tillerson also says that he is skeptical of sanctions and has discussed his view with U.S. government officials. Tillerson made the comments Wednesday after Exxon Mobil Corp.'s annual meeting.

U.S. sanctions over Russia's annexation of Crimea have targeted the president of Russia's largest oil company, Rosneft, but not the company itself. Exxon has an exploration and production agreement with Rosneft in the Russian arctic and Siberia.

"There has been no impact on any of our business activities in Russia to this point," with Rosneft, Tillerson told reporters.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yahoo killed the YouTube star? Marissa Mayer takes on her old employer

Yahoo is planning a YouTube rival. Due to launch this summer, the new video site will focus on attracting content creators through a greater potential to earn money.

According to Ad Age, the rival service is not only at an advanced stage of development, it had been scheduled to launch in April. However, the big reveal is being pushed back while contractual issues are addressed.

Yahoo's CEO, Marissa Mayer, used to be an executive at Google-owned YouTube.

While YouTube is by far the biggest video sharing site on the web — 1 billion active monthly users and counting — it is by no means the only business operating in this space and Yahoo believes that it can attract producers and creators by offering a better split of advertising revenue.

AFP

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2010 oil spill. BP must resume paying claims as it appeals to top U.S. court

BP PLC must resume paying claims while it asks the U.S. Supreme Court to review its settlement with businesses over the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill, a federal appeals court panel said Wednesday.

The 2-1 judgment said the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will not stop payments while BP appeals the court's earlier ruling that businesses, under the settlement, don't have to prove they were directly harmed by the spill to collect money.

BP will ask the Supreme Court to review Wednesday's ruling, company spokesman Geoff Morrell said in an emailed statement.

The four-sentence judgment does not include detailed reasons for an order handed down a day earlier or for the dissent by Judge Edith Brown Clement, who also disagreed in the court's March 3 ruling.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Investors could be chanting olé, olé

Goldman Sachs report. Stocks of the World Cup winner outperform the global market ... in the month after the win

Enjoy it while it lasts: Investors had as much to celebrate as Spanish soccer fans after the country's World Cup win against the Netherlands in 2010, but market gains for winning nations tend to be short-lived. ARTURO RODRIGUEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Winning the soccer World Cup can bring instant rewards to that country's stock market investors. But they better be quick as the post-victory rally doesn't last long.

That's the conclusion of investment bank Goldman Sachs, which published a wide-ranging report on the World Cup and its economic impact.

Goldman Sachs analysts found "a clear pattern of outperformance by the winning team in the weeks after the World Cup final." On average, the victorious country's stocks outperform the global market by 3.5 per cent in the first month, the investment bank's strategy team said.

The conclusions are based on statistics since 1974, when West Germany beat the Netherlands, and appear to be fairly consistent over time. Only Brazil failed to outperform after its win in 2002, largely because the football-mad nation was consumed by recession and a currency crisis.

"In the absence of a severe economic crisis, the winner tends to enjoy the spoils of success in the markets for a brief period at least," Peter Oppenheimer, Goldman Sachs' chief global equity strategist, said in the report published late Tuesday.

A notable exception was Spain, whose stock market rallied 5.7 per cent in the month after the national team won in 2010 its first World Cup — even though the country, along with many of its peers in Europe, was in the midst of an economic and financial crisis.

Investors should be careful, however, not to think that such euphoria will yield longer-lasting gains.

"Sentiment can only take you so far, in markets at least — the winning nation doesn't tend to hold on to its gains and, on average, sees its stock market underperform by around 4 per cent over the year following the final," Oppenheimer said. "The message seems to be: enjoy the gains while they last."

For the country that loses the final, Goldman Sachs found a more modest outperformance of 2 per cent in the first month as the runners-up "seem to experience a post-final bout of the blues."

However, Goldman Sachs found that figure is heavily skewed by the fact that Argentina enjoyed a 33 per cent outperformance in the month after it lost the 1990 World Cup final to Germany as it was recovering from a prior stock market collapse and currency devaluation. Aside from this, Goldman Sachs found that seven of the nine losing finalists underperformed by 1.4 per cent.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD?

HE SAYS
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Is the world getting better or worse?

It's a question that's been debated for decades by a diverse array of middle-aged white men with post-secondary educations. Happy that my people are getting a voice, I've given the issue a lot of thought myself.

I'm torn. On one hand, the world sucks; on the other, it sucks to a lesser magnitude than any time since the Space Odyssey monolith taught us how to brain our fellow monkeys.

The world feels like it's getting worse, but that's just human nature. It's the same phenomenon that allows us to believe that every generation but our own is the one destroying the Earth.

When we were young, we convinced ourselves that our generation was the most hard-done-by ever, which is why the peace and prosperity of the early 1990s still managed to produce teens sulking to Nirvana and Smashing Pumpkins. Then we got older and convinced ourselves that young people were out of control. I'm reaching the age where friends talk about "the teens on the bus" or "the kids at the mall" as if they are a consolidated trade union with the united goal of making life miserable for normal people. Whether we blame the selfish baby boomers or the irresponsible youth, everyone thinks the world is spinning out of control. But what is the reality?

Here are some of the key arguments when weighing Louis Armstrong's "What a wonderful world" against the Wicked Witch of the West's "Oh what a world!"

Resolved — the world is getting better

Pro:

*The intertwined world economy means it's rare for two countries with McDonald's to go to war, most likely because people are too winded to lift their weapons and too big to wedge themselves into their tank holes.

* Thanks to the miracle of the Internet, literally anyone with a minor rash can spend a few minutes online and confidently diagnose themselves with cancer.

* Game of Thrones is so awesome right now.

* Previously intractable problems such as extreme poverty can now be solved with a clever hashtag.

* The world is united as never before thanks to its shared hatred of Kim and Kanye.

Con:

* While countries with McDonald's rarely fight each other, hundreds of thousands have died in the Denny's Wars.

* "Statisticians" will try to tell you that life expectancy is getting higher, but did you know that every single person on Earth is closer to death today than they were yesterday?

* YouTube comments.

* The government knows everything about me, including my PIN, my taste for online rap battles, and that when I'm in a rush I use Head & Shoulders as impromptu bodywash, despite the anatomical specificity of its name.

* Genetically modified strawberries are watery and flavourless.

Five arguments for and five against, so you can see why I haven't yet reached a conclusion. My gut feeling is that the world is better than it's ever been, but that climate change is a sizable wild card that could drastically increase violent weather, destroy the world's agriculture and sink entire cities. Darn kids.

ZOOM

Made of spur parts

Black Hawk is a scrap-iron sculpture of a life-size plow horse pulling a single bottom plow, made by 43-year-old artist John Lopez, based in Lemmon, S.D. JOHN LOPEZ/REX FEATURES

South Dakota

Artist turns metal into animals

The heavy beasts look like they're up for a scrap — scrap metal, that is. These sculptures are the work of artist John Lopez, who welds the pieces from abandoned farm machinery. Based in Lemmon, S.D., the 43-year-old has created full-size replicas of animals such as a horse, buffalo and even a triceratops dinosaur. MWN

Artist's viewpoint

"I moved to my uncle's ranch to make a family cemetery. But after finishing a perimeter fence I ran out of material and, being 35 miles from the nearest town, had to search for usable scrap iron on site. It led on to working with the metal as art material."

John Lopez, scrap-metal artist

Favourite weld-work

'The plow horse is a part of our past'

Out of all the critters welded, the scrap-iron plow horse named Black Hawk is Lopez's most prized creation. "The plow horse is a symbol worldwide that we all understand to be a part of our past and history. We depended on them so much before modern machinery was invented," the artist says. "I think Black Hawk is the one I am most proud of." MWN

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In this issue, you can find AR enhancements on pages 26 and 29 in Scene and page 47 in Sports

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MetroTube

They're happy tears

ANDREW FIFIELD
metronews.ca

Listen. This is a crucial warning.

This video of Mr. G, a very sad and lonely goat being reunited with his best pal, Jellybean the burro, is a festival of tears. Not lock-yourself-indoors-with-Enya-songs-and-a-tub-of-ice-cream tears, mind you. More the redemptive kind.

So as long as you're OK with being a little tear-streaked — or at least misty — in public, then by all means, go right ahead.

One last warning: Mute the sound if you don't like terrible music. (AnimalPlace/YouTube)

YOUTUBE

metro
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This week, world leaders and health experts are meeting in Toronto for the Saving Every Woman Every Child: Within Arm's Reach global summit (May 28-30).

Now is the time to ensure we end preventable newborn and maternal deaths within a generation – which is why 70 Canadian organizations are calling on delegates to:

Maintain momentum for moms, newborns and children

- Invest in what we know works, including health workers and inexpensive medicines
- Support innovations that help deliver better health outcomes for mothers, newborns and children

Bring the most vulnerable within arm's reach

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Strengthen investments in five strategic areas

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- Increase access to emergency obstetric care for mothers

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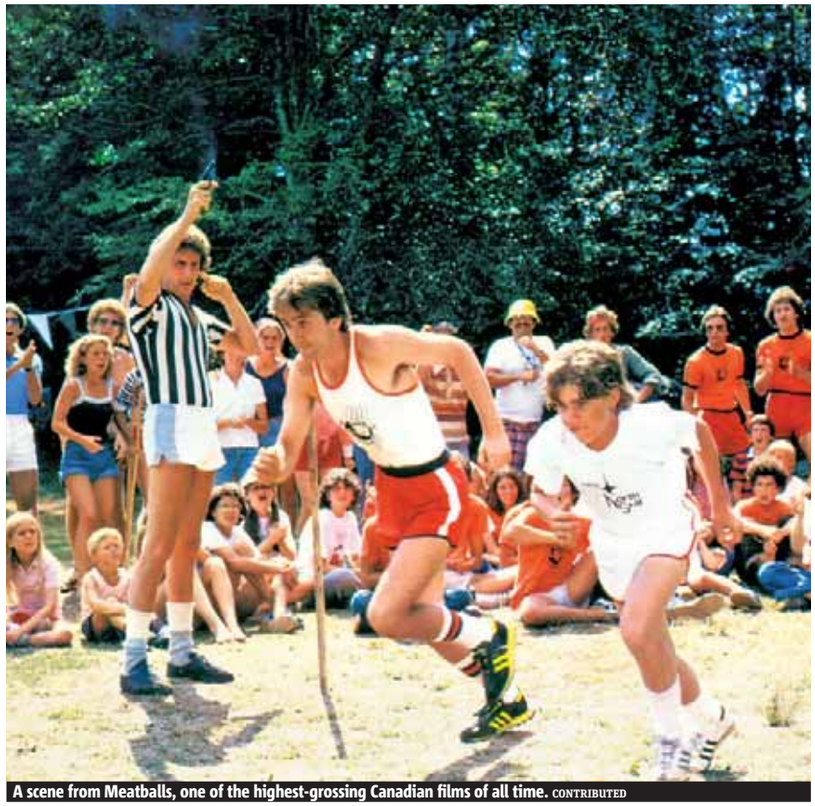
SCENE

Meatballs still serving up good vibes decades after release

'Un-cynical'. Thirty-five years later, the cast and crew of the ultimate camp movie have fond memories of film

BACKSTAGE PASS
Ian Gormely
scene@metronews.ca



A scene from Meatballs, one of the highest-grossing Canadian films of all time. CONTRIBUTED

Two days into filming, Bill Murray had yet to show.

Meatballs was a low-budget, Canadian summer camp comedy starring Murray and directed by the then unproven Ivan Reitman. The director had a verbal commitment from the comedian. But the film's marquee star hadn't signed a contract.

"Ivan kept saying not to worry, he'd show," remembers the film's supervising producer, Don Carmody. But without his participation, the movie was sunk. "We wouldn't admit it at the time," says co-producer and co-writer Daniel Goldberg, "but [if he didn't show] we probably would have shut down."

Thankfully, Murray did show on day three, "and it was magic," says Goldberg. "It was that amazing Bill Murray persona."

But it wasn't Murray's aloofness off-camera that has attracted fans to the film for three-and-a-half decades. The mixture of laughs and true-to-life drama made it an enduring favourite, says Goldberg. "Ivan shoots comedies as if they're dramas."

Some credit has to go to Goldberg and co-writer Len Blum, who spent the spring of 1978 hammering out the film's script. "We just went to a bunch of friends and asked for their warmest memories of camp."

The theme of isolation emerged, that camp exists in a bubble unaffected by events in the real world. Similarly, little things within that world, like relationships or intra-camp games, take on an all-encompassing importance. That feeling was recreated during the summer shoot at Camp White Pine in Haliburton, Ont.

Meatballs was a hit, becoming the highest-grossing Canadian film for a time. It turned Murray into a star and Reitman into a respected Hollywood director while Goldberg and Carmody went on to successful producing careers. Yet even with all his success, Goldberg still looks back on the film fondly. "I get tears in my eyes," he says. "Even at the time, in a more cynical world, it was un-cynical."

The Meatballs poster. CONTRIBUTED

Reuniting for a cause

Thirty-five years after it first premiered, the film's original cast and crew are reuniting for a charity fundraiser and screening at the TIFF Bell Lightbox, Wednesday, June 4th. Action Against Hunger is organizing the event to coincide with the their own 35th anniversary. "They feed people and we had a hot-dog eating contest," jokes Goldberg. Chris Makepeace, who played the film's young protagonist, Rudy, will be in attendance, as will Shannon Tweed, who appeared in the third follow-up film, Meatballs 3. Fitting, given the film's production history, Murray's participation remains a giant question mark. See actioncontrelafaim.ca/meatballs for full details.

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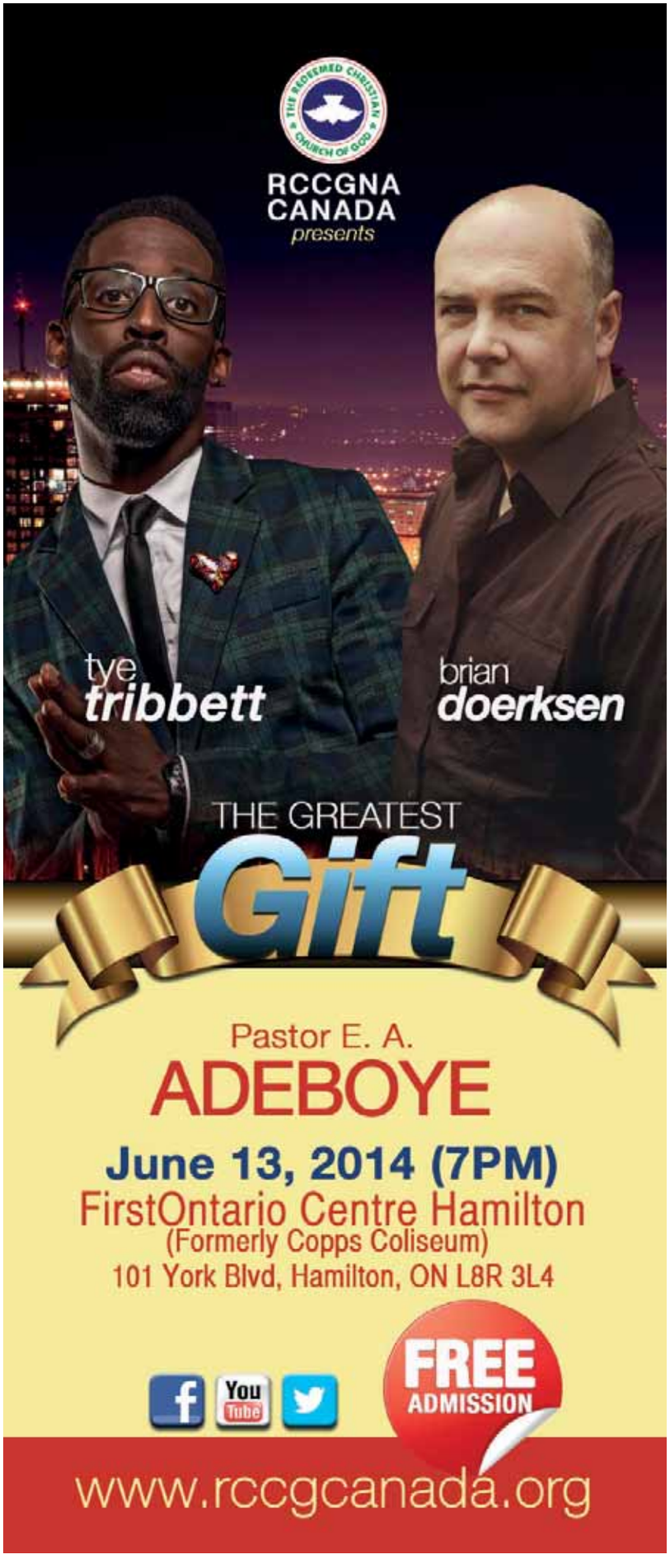

See that symbol? It means you can scan the photograph below with your Metro News app to watch the trailer for The Love Punch.

How to elicit Piercing laughter

Pierce Brosnan and Emma Thompson star in The Love Punch, which is in theatres now. CONTRIBUTED

The Love Punch.
Brosnan has no problem laughing at his age or past roles

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Pierce Brosnan isn't afraid to poke fun at himself or his age — or his time playing James Bond and Thomas Crowne — in the pursuit of a good laugh. Plus, going for those laughs opposite Emma Thompson doesn't hurt. Brosnan and Thompson play bickering exes in writer-director Joel Hopkins' The Love Punch, about a regular couple who get carried away with a jewel heist as revenge against the callous French banker who tanked their retirement fund.

It's hard to believe this is the first time you've teamed up with Emma Thompson. How was it working with her?
Oh, it was out-of-the-box great. Such a memorable summer it was. We hit the ground running Day One, scene one, like we'd been working together forever. We'd wanted to work with each other for many years. There's just a real fondness for each other, and from my point of view she's just such a gifted lady — beautiful, gifted, kind, gracious, affable. If she was here I wouldn't get a word in edgewise. She is just wildly entertaining.

This film sneaks in some fun nods to your time as James Bond and other previous work.
I certainly got the jokes within the jokes — dressing up in a wetsuit, scaling a rubber mountain, stealing a diamond. Of course. If not now, when? Joel and I had talked often about this kind of humour and this kind of film. So all of the ingredients were just ripe for the doing.

It is odd, though, to see Timothy Spall in a wetsuit.
It's quite a sight to behold. They gave him the wrong size wetsuit. They had to slit it up the back — you can actually see it in the film if you freeze it. Poor Timothy, he was miserable. And they gave him a three-ply, and it was a summer's day. It was so hot.

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A mother's fight against paparazzi

Born into fame? Actress Kristen Bell is waging war against tabloid photos of children with the No Kids Policy

In this Aug. 13, 2013 file photo, actress Jennifer Garner testifies at the Capitol in Sacramento, Calif., in support of a bill that would limit the ability of paparazzi to photograph children of celebrities. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Kristen Bell takes a turn behind the long lens in Veronica Mars. ROBERT VOETS/ WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Suri Cruise did not ask for fame. Yet she's been chased by cameras practically from birth, with no choice in the matter, because her parents are Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes.

Kristen Bell is exasperated just thinking about it. "Suri Cruise is not fictional. She's a real little girl ... and it's just not fair," Bell says.

The 33-year-old actress and mother has been leading a growing movement among Hollywood stars aiming to reduce media demand for paparazzi images of celebrity kids, and she's using the plight of eight-year-old Suri as an example.

Launched in January, Bell's No Kids Policy gained almost instant traction by hitting the entertainment media where it hurts: celebrity access, which translates into viewers, readers and profits.

Bell got a bunch of stars, from Jennifer Aniston to Jennifer Lawrence, who agreed to decline interviews with TV and text outlets that use paparazzi photos or video of children that were taken without their parents' consent. Then she met with entertainment media executives and told them either agree to her No Kids Policy or celebs will stay away.

Now, through upcoming media interviews and meetings with "mommy bloggers," Bell is taking her cause directly to consumers, asking them to consider the circumstances around the starry images that beckon at grocery check stands.

"There is no way for a child to wrap their head around the fact that they are a cog in this machine," Bell said in a recent interview. "All they experience is the predatory sense of being hunted."

And the actress would sooner quit the business than subject her 11-month-old daughter, Lincoln, to such a media scrum.

"I like being an actress very much," she said, "but I love being a mother and it is a very clear decision which one I would choose."

Bell and her famous colleagues can't outright refuse interviews as they leverage the power of celebrity to stomp out invasive imagery of kids; contracts typically obligate them to promote their movies and shows. But they can be picky about which outlets they'll work with.

Star-driven shows and magazines such as Entertainment Tonight and Us Weekly, which rely on images from freelance photographers and independent photo agencies to help illustrate their stories, say it's easy to support Bell's effort. But their interpretations of compliance vary.

Entertainment Tonight executive producer Brad Bessey said he would not use paparazzi-generated photos of celebrity kids under any circumstances, while Us Weekly editor-in-chief Mike Steele might consider such images in cases of breaking news involving the children.

Steele said the new policy hasn't impacted editorial operations at the magazine, other than requiring an extra step to get consent from celebrity parents before publishing images of their kids. Some agree and some don't, he said.

Like other entertainment news outlets, Us Weekly also uses social media for pictures of star children, which are inherently approved when posted by their celebrity parent.

So with varying sources for kid photos — approved or not — how does Bell monitor compliance? She and her publicist are doing it themselves, they say, and it isn't easy.

Tuan, a freelance paparazzo who shoots for the Phamous Photo agency, said he hasn't seen any change in demand for his pictures, which sometimes include unauthorized images of celebrity kids.

"We have these long lenses and keep our distance. We let them enjoy their weekend," Tuan said. "The kids generally don't know what's going on."

It is not illegal in California to photograph a minor in public, but such photos can't be used commercially without a release. And steps are being taken in the California legislature against photographers who harass children of the famous.

Yet the power of celebrity and a mother's drive could be the most effective force of all.

Says Bell: "I'll argue until my dying day that my daughter should not be affected by my career choice."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pictures of kids still sell

Two major celebrity-photo agencies, Splash News and x17, continue to distribute paparazzi images of children. Both declined to be interviewed for this story.

- **Weekly magazines Life & Style, OK! and In Touch, and websites such as TMZ, haven't signed on to Bell's policy and continue to publish paparazzi pictures of kids.** TMZ and OK! did not respond to multiple requests for an interview.
- **Bauer Media Group, which publishes Life & Style and In Touch, did not grant an interview, but said in a statement that its editors follow "rigorous guidelines."** The company did not elaborate.
- **In Touch magazine runs a weekly feature called "oh baby!" filled with images of celebrity kids.** A recent issue included various shots of Miranda Kerr and Orlando Bloom's three-year-old son, Flynn.

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"I like being an actress very much, but I love being a mother and it is a very clear decision which one I would choose."

Kristen Bell, actress

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Woody Harrelson and Matthew McConaughey in HBO's True Detective. HBO

True Detective writer reveals Season 2 details

California screamin'.
New setting, characters planned for next season

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News in New York City

HBO's True Detective took the police procedural highbrow. Instead of wooden acting and formulaic plots, True Detective brought us great performances by Woody Harrelson and Matthew McConaughey and one knotty, decade-spanning mystery. It was a huge hit.

However, the series' decade-long structure made it next to impossible for leads McConaughey and Harrelson to return for a second season (plus they're pretty busy being movie stars). True Detective writer Nic Pizzolatto confirmed this week that Season 2 will ditch the Louisiana setting entirely and start fresh with a new cast. "It takes place in California — not Los Angeles but some of the much lesser-known venues of California — and we're going to try to capture a certain psychosphere ambiance of the place, much like we did in Season 1," he told NPR.

Pizzolatto says that the new season of True Detective will have three leads instead of two. According to unofficial casting breakdowns obtained by Deadline, the three characters you'll soon be obsessed with are a 40-something male detective/cop, a 20-something male cop and — be still my heart — a 30-something female detective.

So who will the new cast be?

Rumour had it that Jessica Chastain would play a role, but she's since confirmed that she turned it down. Brad Pitt, Josh Brolin, and Taylor Kitsch have also been mentioned. However, Pizzolatto says it's too soon to discuss.

"The characters are all new, but I'm deeply in love with each of them," he said on NPR. "We've got the entire series broken out with a couple of scripts, and we'll probably start casting in earnest in the coming months."

Quoted

"The characters are all new, but I'm deeply in love with each of them."
Nic Pizzolatto, True Detective writer

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See that symbol? It means you can scan this image with your Metro News app to watch Maya Angelou reciting her poem On the Pulse of Morning at Bill Clinton's first presidential inauguration.

American poet Maya Angelou dies at 86

Inspiring. A modern Renaissance woman, Angelou survived the harshest of childhoods to become a force on the stage and printed page

Guy B. Johnson, Maya Angelou's only son, said the renowned writer died at her home Wednesday in Winston-Salem, N.C., where she had been a professor of American studies at Wake Forest University since 1982.

Tall and regal, with a deep, majestic voice, Angelou defied all probability and category, becoming one of the first black women to enjoy mainstream success as an author and thriving in virtually every artistic medium.

An actress, singer and dancer in the 1950s and 1960s, she broke through as an author in 1969 with I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, which became standard (and occasionally censored) reading, and was the first of a multi-part autobiography that continued through the decades. In 1993, she was a sensation reading her cautiously hopeful On the Pulse of Morning at President Bill Clinton's first inauguration. Her confident performance openly delighted Clinton and made the poem a bestseller, if not a critical favourite. For President George W. Bush, she read another poem, Amazing Peace, at the 2005 Christmas tree lighting ceremony at the White House.

She published not just poetry, but advice books, cookbooks and children's stories. She wrote music, plays and screenplays and received an Emmy nomination for her acting in the 1977 miniseries Roots.

Angelou was born Marguerite Johnson in St. Louis and raised in Stamps, Ark., and San Francisco, moving back and forth between her parents and her grandmother. She was smart and fresh to the point of danger, packed off by her family to California after sassing a white store clerk in Arkansas. Other times, she didn't speak at all: At age 7, she was raped by her mother's boyfriend and didn't speak for years. She learned by reading, and listening.

At age 9, she was writing poetry. By 17, she was a single mother. In her early 20s, she danced at a strip joint, ran a brothel, was married and then divorced. By her mid-20s, she was performing at the Purple Onion in San Francisco.

Angelou was little known outside the theatrical community until I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, a book occasionally attacked for its content.

Author Francine Prose criticized Caged Bird as "manipulative" melodrama. Meanwhile, Angelou's passages about her rape and teen pregnancy have made it a perennial on the American Library Association's list of works that draw complaints from parents and educators.

"I thought that it was a mild book. There's no profanity," Angelou told The Associated Press. "It speaks about surviving, and it really doesn't make ogres of many people. I was shocked to find there were people who really wanted it banned, and I still believe people who are against the book have never read the book."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In remembrance

"She lived a life as a teacher, activist, artist and human being. She was a warrior for equality, tolerance and peace."

Guy B. Johnson, only son of Maya Angelou

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In this 1971 photo, Maya Angelou poses with a copy of her book, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lawsuit. Beastie Boys' Ad-Rock defends use of music in snowboarding video

Beastie Boys rapper Adam "Ad-Rock" Horovitz leaves federal court in Manhattan after testifying Tuesday. LARRY NEUMEISTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beastie Boys rapper Adam "Ad-Rock" Horovitz had an easy answer for a New York lawyer asking why the hip-hop group refuses to endorse products but licensed its music for a watch company's snowboarding video.

Horovitz told a lawyer for beverage-maker Monster Energy Co. that, "We like sports." He said snowboarding, skateboarding and surfing are all hits with the band he started with two others in the 1980s when he was a teenager.

The testimony came Wednesday at a trial stemming from a lawsuit the band brought against the Corona, California-based Monster.

The company admits it violated the Beastie Boys' copyrights by including its songs in a video that was online for five weeks. But it insists it should owe no more than $125,000. The band wants over $2 million. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lost tapes. Queen to release Mercury tracks

Queen are to release new tracks featuring Freddie Mercury's vocals by the end of the year, the British rock group's guitarist Brian May said.

The songs, dating back to the 1980s, will be released on a compilation album, May told BBC radio.

Lead singer Mercury died of AIDS-related pneumonia in 1991. Four years later, Queen released Made In Heaven, their final studio album with the iconic frontman, painstakingly constructing some fresh songs from lines of vocals he left behind.

But May said more tapes in the vault had come to light. "We found a few more tracks with Freddie singing and all of us playing, and they're quite beautiful, so people will be hearing this work towards the end of the year," the 66-year-old said.

"We're going to put out an album which probably is called Queen Forever, and it's a compilation, but it will have this new material which nobody in the world has ever heard. And I think people will really enjoy it."

Late Queen singer Freddie Mercury. JEAN-CLAUDE COUTAUSSE/AFP

In their current form, the songs do not have the bombastic Queen sound, but May and drummer Roger Taylor — bassist John Deacon retired in 1997 — are giving them the band's trademark anthem touch.

"It wouldn't have been if we hadn't done this restoration job on it because you have to start from scratch really, because we only had scraps," May said. "But knowing how it would've happened if we'd finished it then, I can sit there and make it happen, with modern technology." AFP

California

Judge dismisses guardianship case over Paul Walker's daughter

Los Angeles Superior Court Commissioner David J. Cowan dismissed a guardianship case over Meadow Rain Walker after hearing from Amy Nieman, an attorney appointed to represent the 15-year-old.

Nieman said Meadow Walker's mother, Rebecca Soteros, has been spending time with her daughter while receiving treatment for alcoholism and is currently sober. She says the teenager is being cared for by a nanny who has helped raise Meadow Walker for roughly two years.

Paul Walker's mother petitioned for a guardianship over her granddaughter but asked to dismiss it, citing Meadow Walker's wishes.

The Fast & Furious franchise star died in a November car crash.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Netflix

Charlie Cox to play Daredevil

Online content platform Netflix has cast British actor Charlie Cox in the lead for its new production on Marvel's blind superhero. The 13-episode miniseries will arrive in 2015.

Cox is the first recruit for Netflix's new collection of four miniseries, each featuring a different Marvel superhero. The platform plans to introduce its subscribers to Jessica Jones, Iron Fist and Luke Cage.

Daredevil battles injustice both during the day, as a lawyer named Matt Murdock, and at night as his superhero alter ego with hyper-developed senses. AFP

Charlie Cox. BEN STANSALL/AFP

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Foul-mouthed! Theatre stars' fave #@&*ing words

Toronto's theatre scene is getting a little foul — mouthed that is — with the latest Off-Mirvish production, Dead Metaphor. The play, running through June 8, is about family, marriage and finding your way in the world, but it is also full of swearing. We asked some of the people involved in the production to tell us about their favourite swear word — so consider yourself warned. Visit mirvish.com for more details.

METRO

George Walker
Playwright and director

Walker's favourite word rhymes with "lock lucker."

"And not in the good way. In the greedy mean-spirited, harmful, hateful, selfish, destructive, loathsome way."

Michael Healey
Actor (Oliver)

Healy really likes a word that starts with "mother."

"It's got the 'plosives,' it's absurdly imagistic. It's got enough syllables to make it [difficult to use], which means you really have to choose to use it."

Eric Peterson
Actor (Hank)

Peterson's favourite swear ends with the word "head."

"[It's] so satisfyingly descriptive, and 'private sector,' meaning monstrous, material, self-interested or greedy guts!"

Haley McGee
Actor (Jenny)

McGee's favourite is pretty tame, so we can print it

"My favourite swear word is 'Jesus Murphy!' Because it's something I heard adults mutter while I was growing up. It makes me laugh and it feels so good to say.

Julie Stewart
Actor (Helen)

Stewart's favourite rhymes with 'punt'

"I believe it deserves to be embraced. Someone told me once that the original meaning of the word described a rabbit hole ... Imagining all those little bunnies curled up together in the warm earth makes the word feel less harsh."

Noah Reid
Actor (Dean)

Reid's favourite is the French word for 'tabernacle' and seems pretty un-offensive in English. In French, it's another story.

"I like the French tabernac. So many great syllables in there."

She's won 17 Jeopardy! games. Who is Julia Collins?

Trivia champ. Chicago-area egghead goes for lucky number 18 after becoming third person to win so many rounds

Answer: She predicted in her eighth-grade yearbook that she would someday be a Jeopardy! champion.

Question: Who is Julia Collins?

To be fair, anyone who watches contestants go egghead-to-egghead on the show wouldn't be surprised if any one of them made the prediction. But Collins has made good on her prediction, and then some.

On the episode that aired Tuesday, the 31-year-old resident of the Chicago suburb of Wilmette became the third person in Jeopardy! history to win as many as 17 consecutive non-tournament games, earning her a total of $372,700 and making her the show's winningest woman.

"I went into this feeling like I could win a show and put in a good effort ... but this, it's kind of a daydream come true," Collins said Tuesday.

Collins' appearances on the show also answer another question all but her closest friends and family who watched some of the shows being taped had about why she didn't seem stressed about quitting her consulting job or in a hurry to find work.

"I did a lot of hemming and hawing about why I was less aggressive than I could have been," said Collins, explaining that she was prohibited by the show from talking about the program at all between mid-January, when she started taping them, and April, when they started to air, or the $10,000 to $35,000 she was winning a day.

Sworn to secrecy about shows that haven't aired, she won't say if she wins her 18th straight game, which airs Wednesday, or whether she will go for the 19th win on Thursday's show, which would tie her for second all-time in consecutive wins. Her chuckle, however, suggests she hasn't caught the all-time winningest contestant, Ken Jennings, who won 74 straight games.

That's not to say she hasn't had plenty to say about the show. She has posted dozens of tweets about shows as they've aired, confessing she made a mathematical error when deciding how much she could bet on Final Jeopardy and still win with a wrong answer even if another contestant got it right. She mentioned questions that as an art history major, she couldn't believe she got wrong, as well as one she got right, "Who was Lucian Freud?"

"I think Alex (the show's host, Alex Trebek) was impressed with that one," she said.

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Julia Collins is the winningest woman in Jeopardy! history. TERESA CRAWFORD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I went into this feeling like I could win a show and put in a good effort ... but this, it's kind of a daydream come true."

Julia Collins, 17-time Jeopardy! champion

Miley Cyrus ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Miley to Billy Ray: A reality show wouldn't be the Best of Both Worlds

Oh, how the tables have turned. While Miley Cyrus got her start in entertainment thanks to the guidance of dad Billy Ray Cyrus, it now looks like she's advising him on his career decisions. "Billy Ray has turned down what must be his sixth reality show offer in the last four years because Miley has been very strict with her parents about not doing them, even though they have been offered a fortune by all the big players, including Bravo, Lifetime and E!, to open up their home to cameras," a source tells Radar Online. "Miley would much rather do a Christmas special or a concert at the Hollywood Bowl with her dad rather than watch him embarrass himself like Bruce Jenner on TV every week." Apparently the offers were getting lucrative enough to be very, very tempting, the source says. "But ultimately she was very thankful they came to an understanding that it would be a bad idea."

Charlize Theron loving the single life at 38 years old

Charlize Theron has never been married and she couldn't be happier about it. "I'm sure some people would be like, 'I would never want to have that life.' I'm sure there's a lot of aspects to my life that a lot of people wouldn't want. Like the fact that I'm single at 38. That's not necessarily what a lot of women want," she tells Esquire U.K. "But I'm just saying, a life is good if it's the life that you want. I am living my life in a way that if tomorrow it ended — and I hope not, because I have a kid — but if it did, this was the life that I really wanted to live. But I work at that, you know?"

Charlize Theron

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Uh oh! Video surfaces of 1D's Zayn and Louis smoking pot

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News

Ah, a squeaky clean pop group's first big scandal. Someone put this in the photo album: Video surfaced this week of One Direction stars Louis Tomlinson and Zayn Malik smoking a joint in a van.

The Daily Mail has the full video. Louis, who's also the cameraman, says that the group are on their way out of Peru. Marijuana is not particularly legal in Peru, although possession of under eight ounces is decriminalized, and Louis makes clear that he knows what they're doing is not exactly kosher. While filming their police motorcycle escort, Louis jokes, "He's having a look. He's thinking, 'I'm sure I can smell an illegal substance in there,' and he's hit the nail on the head."

Zayn, on the other hand, is a less chatty stoner. He doesn't say much, just smokes, and beams, and chants "Mary J. Blige" in falsetto.

So world, are we going to be shocked by this? I know it's illegal and all, but at this point it's barely illegal most places. I think I'd be more shocked if two teenish dudes weren't smoking pot than if they were. Plus, they just seem so very proud to be Big Boys Doing Drugs that it's a little hard to stay mad at their cute little faces. I imagine those same faces have gotten them out of every scrape they've ever been in. OK, now I'm getting mad again.

Denise Richards

Denise Richards house-hunting after Charlie Sheen kicks her out of her home

Denise Richards and her children are apparently on the hunt for new digs after ex-husband Charlie Sheen reportedly kicked them out of the house in which they'd been living and sold it to a friend, according to the National Enquirer. Sheen initially purchased the home for Richards, but his lawyers "have been working with Denise on vacating the premises," a source says. "Charlie has wanted Denise out of the gated community — where he also lives — for months, and his porn star fiancée, Brett Rossi, has been pushing for it, too." Sheen and Richards have been clashing lately over child support and how much time Sheen can spend with the children they share.

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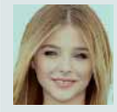

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Spring, how I love hue so

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ELIZABETH BEDDALL
Metro World News

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Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Name: Jessica Simmiss

Age: 28

Occupation: Clothing stylist/personal shopper

What she's wearing
American apparel bomber, TOPSHOP matching crop and skirt and necklace, American Apparel thigh highs, shoes from B2 and Aldo bag.

Her inspiration
"Completely mood inspired. If it's furry, velvet and aggressive I already own it."

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If you enjoy being out in the sun, then you better be educated about sun protection. You've probably used SPF creams and sprays, but there's a new product on the market. Go online to Trends Report to learn about a U.S. company that claims it is has invented the world's first drinkable sunscreen.

- **Online.** Follow Irene on Twitter at @MetroIreneK or Instagram: kuanirene; metronews.ca/voices/trends-report

Photo by Irene, Instagram

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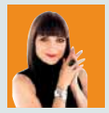

JEANNE SPACE
Jeanne Beker
life@metronews.ca

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Done lots of cool+inspiring things in my life but today's talk @ Vincent Massey Collegiate took the cake! GREAT kids!

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Choo-sing to strut her stuff solo

Change is a foot. Jimmy Choo co-founder Tamara Mellon seeks to shake up style world with her own brand

While Jimmy Choo's name was stitched on the soles, Tamara Mellon was the creative driving force and ambassador for the luxury label whose fanciful heels have left a sizable footprint on red carpets and pop culture.

The British entrepreneur co-founded the company in 1996, growing the business from a tiny cobbler's shop in London into an international billion-dollar brand worn by A-list stars and name-checked in hip-hop songs and on Sex and the City.

Mellon sold her share of the company in 2011 and has now launched her own namesake label where she's intent on shaking up the style world when it comes to how clothing is marketed and sold.

"Everything I've done with this business is the complete antithesis to what someone would tell you how to do (things) for success in the fashion industry," Mellon said in an interview at Holt Renfrew's corporate offices following an in-store appearance at the retailer's downtown Toronto flagship store.

"I don't have seasons. I do monthly fashion concepts and it's buy now, wear now, because I don't believe women want to shop four months ahead anymore. I know I want to buy something today and wear it tomorrow.

"I'm delivering spring-summer in spring-summer and autumn-winter in autumn-winter ... So I'm completely disrupting everything."

Mellon said she believes the reason other companies haven't mirrored her strategy is the large scale of many brands makes it difficult to transition after many years of following the same pattern.

"The lucky thing for me is I started this from scratch."

While she's offered a twist on the more conventional fashion formula, she borrowed a page out of her Jimmy Choo playbook with a collection of wardrobe essentials that will be available year-round — just as she did with the footwear brand.

Her Endless collection features a line of seasonless investment pieces including bras, blazers, sweaters, structured shoulder bags and pointy-toe heels. Meanwhile, the current range of warmer-weather looks is steeped largely in a palette of black, cream, navy and acid yellow. Boatneck rompers, lace camis and blouses, studded shift dresses and skirts, and trenches and blazers in shimmering Lurex are among the items in the ready-to-wear range.

And of course there is no shortage of footwear offerings, from studded flats to metallic pumps and legging boots, with styles punctuated by rich colours and patterns from python print to honeycomb cutouts.

"When I looked at contemporary (fashion), there was nothing for a sophisticated woman, a woman who wants to be a bit edgy and sophisticated," Mellon said of her creative vision behind the line.

The designer said she continues to work with the same factories in Italy stemming from a commitment to creating handbags and shoes that are investment pieces. Accessories in the line start from around $500.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Style's in the stars

Mellon said much has changed in the industry since starting Jimmy Choo, which coincided with the "wave of celebrity" that blanketed the landscape, as well as a shift in consumer habits.

- "Magazines realized that if they put an actress on the cover, their readership went up and then accessories were exploding," she recalled. "I think everyday dress became so much more casual, so accessories became much more important, they became much more of a status symbol ... And now with this, I think the world has changed again with this business. Now with social media, I can have a direct communication with my customer. Before there was a barrier in between us. And that's more important today."

Fashion entrepreneur Tamara Mellon. GEORGE PIMENTEL / THE CANADIAN PRESS

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TD

A garment that grows

Breathing room is back on trend. Behold the expandable dress that gives you back your personal space

Sometimes earphones, a tablet or a good old newspaper just isn't enough to protect your personal space on an overcrowded subway. That's where the Personal Space Dress comes to the rescue. The outfit, which includes in-built sensors to detect any pesky space invaders, unfolds and expands like an umbrella to keep any undesirables at bay, only to retract when personal space has been restored. Kathleen McDermott's formidable creation wasn't actually designed for everyday use. In fact, it's a work of art designed to highlight our relationship between wearable technology and the physical world. Here, the Hong Kong-based artist tells Metro about the dress that is a growing sensation.

Is this a serious solution to personal space problems?
No, it's actually a piece of art.

Don't mess with this dress. PROVIDED

All of the pieces in my Urban Armor project deal with issues that are happening in public spaces. One of my interests is the relationship between technology and the body. A lot of wearable devices are focusing on the way you relate to your virtual world, whereas these devices are relating to the physical world.

This could be a polite way of people silently saying, "Don't stand too close to me!" Is it a solution to unwanted intimacy?
They're meant to be funny but they're not meant to be hyperliteral. I don't think they're viable solutions to societal problems but some people think they are. Some people go, "I would wear that ..."

Some women feel threatened on public transport, so will this keep women safe?
I wasn't thinking about threats; it's about how you have a knee-jerk reaction when someone comes into your space. Maybe you have a reaction to move away, but instead of you moving away, the dress does it for you and it does it in a much more exaggerated way. The dress is a part of the relationship — it's a kind of third force.

Thread-ening

"Maybe you have a reaction to move away, but instead of you moving away the dress does it for you and it does it in a much more exaggerated way."
Kathleen McDermott
Creator of the Personal Space Dress

You've designed a 'Miss-My-Face' veil that protects you from CCTV and an 'Auto Filter' scarf that protects the wearer from pollution, so what's next?
The next project is going to relate to words that make you cringe. Everybody has a word that makes them twitch. I've found out that my sister has a really exaggerated reaction to the word 'moist'. It's kind of gross.

METRO

Generation excellent

A very Coupland collection

Douglas Coupland and Roots have teamed up for a new capsule collection of clothes inspired by the author, artist and Canadian cultural icon. Released this week, the collection includes men's and women's tops, a scarf and a leather belt. Inspiration came from Coupland's visual work and coincides with his Vancouver Art Gallery exhibition Douglas Coupland: everywhere is anywhere and anything is everything. For more information on the collection, visit canada.roots.com.

METRO

SLOGAN SHORT SLEEVE T-SHIRTS, $42 / POP HEAD LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT, $58

Cookbook of the Week

For barbecues, backyards and beaches

There is something about eating outside, so it's no surprise that al fresco dining is becoming popular. In Vegan al fresco, Carla Kelly prepares elegant vegan dishes for outdoor dining. The book includes prep and cooking times, advice on portability, and menu suggestions for special occasions. In sections such as Sandwiches and Spreads, On the Grill, and Ready Built Salads, it includes recipes for Samosa Spring Rolls, Macaroni Salad, Chickpea Sausages, Hazelnut Latte Cupcakes and more. METRO

Al fresco gets into a vegan state of mind

Grilled Eggplant Sandwiches. Try a filling that's just as satisfying at meat

"Simple yet full of wonderful texture and flavour, these sandwiches can be prepared ahead of time and taken with you if there are no cooking facilities at your picnic spot," writes Carla Kelly in her book Vegan al fresco. "However, if you can grill on location, bring the marinated eggplant in containers and put sandwiches together using eggplant strips hot off the grill."

Ingredients

- 1 medium eggplant, , about 1 lb (500 g)

Marinade

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) white wine
- 2 tbsp white balsamic vinegar or vegetable stock
- 2 tsp toasted cumin seeds
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 1/2 tsp dried tarragon
- 1/4 –1/2 tsp chili flakes
- salt and ground black pepper, to taste

Chive Butter

- 1/4 cup (60 ml) finely chopped fresh chives
- 2 tbsp finely chopped shallots
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) vegan margarine

To Assemble

- 4 long baguette-style rolls
- 2 fresh ripe tomatoes, sliced
- 2 cups baby spinach

1. In a large flat container with a resealable lid or in a large zip- close bag, combine all marinade ingredients.

2. Cut eggplant in half lengthwise, then into 16 1/4-inch (6-mm) wide strips. Place eggplant slices in bag with marinade and toss to coat. Marinate for at least 1 hour (longer is better). Turn after 30 minutes.

3. In a small bowl, combine chive butter ingredients. Cover and chill until required.

4. Preheat barbecue to high (or broiler, if using oven) and grill eggplant slices for 20 minutes, turning as required until both sides are golden and a little caramelized. While grilling, split rolls lengthwise and lightly toast if desired.

5. Spread rolls with chive butter. Place tomato slices, greens, and red onions on 1 side of each sandwich. Top each with 4 slices of grilled eggplant.

RECIPE FROM VEGAN AL FRESCO: HAPPY & HEALTHY RECIPES FOR PICNICS, BARBECUES & OUTDOOR DINING BY CARLA KELLY (ARSENAL PULP PRESS, 2014)

This recipe serves four. TRACEY KUSIEWICZ/FOODIE PHOTOGRAPHY.

Mojito-Inspired Tofu

This recipe serves four people. TRACEY KUSIEWICZ/FOODIE PHOTOGRAPHY

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1. In a large flat container with a resealable lid or in a large zip-close bag, combine juice, rum, mint, agave, oil, garlic, lime zest, and salt. Add tofu and marinate in refrigerator for at least 1 hour, turning after 30 minutes.

2. Preheat the barbecue to medium heat. Lay down a sheet of aluminum foil lightly brushed with oil. Grill for 3–4 minutes each side until golden, basting frequently with leftover marinade. Serve immediately.

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup (60 ml) + 2 tbsp fresh lime juice
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) light rum
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) finely chopped fresh mint
- 1 1/2 tbsp agave
- 1 tbsp canola oil
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 tsp lime zest
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 lb (500 g) extra-firm regular tofu (water-packed), drained and pressed, sliced widthwise into 12 rectangles

For your phone

Seafood Watch (iPhone/iPad/ Android; free)

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
life@metronews.ca

Before you order, make sure the restaurant is serving ocean-friendly fish or sushi. This often-updated guide from the Monterey Bay Aquarium lists the status and farming practices for popular species.

Addictive quality of grilled asparagus

This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Grilling vegetables is magical, mostly because the intense heat caramelizes the natural sugars in them. It transforms vegetables from something you feel you have to eat into something you can't stop eating! And grilled asparagus is one of the most awesome. Not only is it delicious, it's also easy to make.

1. Heat grill to medium and prepare for direct heat cooking. For charcoal grill, spread coals evenly under grate. For gas grill, all burners should be on.

2. Trim off tough bottoms of spears by grasping each end and bending it gently until it snaps at its natural point of tenderness, usually two-thirds of way down the spear. If spear is less than 6 inches long, chances are it has been trimmed.

3. Place spears in zip-close plastic bag. Add oil and massage spears to coat very well. Sprinkle in the salt and massage again. Leave the asparagus in the bag until ready to cook.

4. Use tongs to place spears on cooking grate crosswise so they won't fall through the grates. Grill for 5 to 8 minutes, turning occasionally to expose all sides to the heat. The asparagus should begin to brown in spots, but don't let them blacken and char. The larger the spears, the longer they will take to cook.

5. Remove from grill and serve with butter. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ELIZABETH KARMEL, AUTHOR OF THREE COOKBOOKS, INCLUDING SOAKED, SLATHERED AND SEASONED.**

Ingredients

- 1 lb fresh asparagus
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 tsp kosher salt

Colour your soup bowl

This Ginger Chicken and Orzo Soup soup is a perfect start to springtime. Colourful and easy to enjoy to start a meal or on its own with a crisp salad and a whole grain bun.

1. Using chef's knife, cut chicken into bite size pieces and place in bowl. Add ginger, parsley, garlic and pepper and toss to coat well.

2. In soup pot or saucepan, heat oil over medium high heat and cook chicken mixture, stirring constantly for 5 minutes. Stir in red pepper to combine.

3. Add broth and bring to boil. Add orzo and asparagus. Simmer 8 minutes or until orzo is tender and chicken is no longer pink inside. **EMILY RICHARDS**

This recipe serves four to six people. EMILY RICHARDS

Ingredients

- 1 lb (454 g) boneless skinless chicken breasts
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) minced fresh ginger
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped fresh parsley
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- Pinch freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tsp (10 ml) canola oil
- 1 red bell pepper, chopped
- 1 box (900 ml) sodium reduced chicken broth
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) whole wheat or regular orzo pasta
- 1 cup (250 mL) chopped fresh asparagus

metro

TODAY'S HOROSCOPE:

Neptune is suggesting that now may be the perfect time to get the Metro News App

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11:33 AM
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TODAY'S HOROSCOPE
All things may be possible for you now but the planets warn you should be tying up loose ends rather than starting anything new. Are you prepared for what is to come? Get your act together, and keep your friends close.

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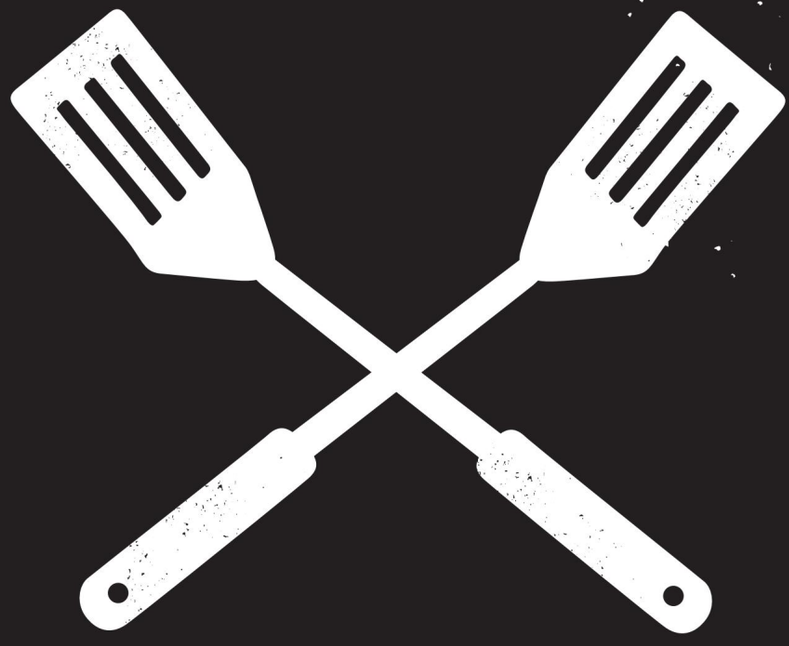
THE GRID



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Legal Matters

No permit, no closing

I am in the process of closing a house that I have purchased, renovated and sold to a buyer who likes what I have done to the property. We were supposed to close today but the purchaser's lawyer is not forwarding the mortgage funds because there are open permits on the property. These permits are for work that the purchaser wants done and the buyer is fine with them. However, the lawyer is insisting on the permits be closed or at least addressed before he will allow his client to buy. This seems a bit strange, that the purchaser is fine but the lawyer will not agree to proceed with the transaction. Any thoughts?

LEGAL MATTERS
Jeffrey Cowan
home@metronews.ca

This is not as unusual as it seems. The purchaser's lawyer is working for more than one master in this circumstance. He must also satisfy the financial institution giving the mortgage funds that they are lending on a property that is free and clear and good collateral. Outstanding permits can provide huge headaches for new purchasers as the potential list of problems grows once they actually contact the city inspectors who have placed the notice(s) against the property. Just because the unsuspecting purchaser says everything is OK doesn't mean that the lawyer should simply agree to close the transaction.

The reality of a dual retainer by both the client and the bank can put many obstacles in the way of a solicitor forging ahead to close a deal without looking at all the factors affecting the title and status of the property.

Follow Jeff Cowan on Twitter @Cowan_Law or on the website cowanlaw.ca, or email him at jeff@cowanlaw.ca.

Rent or buy, it's still a condo in the sky

Suite dilemma. As vast condo inventory takes place of traditional rental units, does ownership still make sense?

CONDO TRENDS
Duncan McAllister
life@metronews.ca

New luxury residential development Heathview is a purpose-built, high-rise rental building in Forest Hill. CONTRIBUTED

Toronto had truly entered the jet-set age back in the 1960s and '70s. Gleaming new high-rise rental towers offered a new mode of convenient, contemporary housing for busy working professionals. Projects like St. James Town and Crescent Town ushered in an era of modern, urban lifestyle situated along the city's nascent subway lines.

Fast-forward 40 years, and those developments had fallen into decline. Toronto really hasn't produced many new purpose-built rental buildings in a long time. The city's vast condo inventory has taken the place of conventional high-rise rentals, with owner-investors leasing out their newly purchased suites.

So when it comes to condos, is it better to rent or own? Dan Barnabic, author of The Condo Bible for Canadians, poses an ominous question: What happens if your combined maintenance fees, taxes, perhaps a special assessment, actually exceed the amount of rent for a comparable unit in the same building? "I believe at that time, the ownership of the condominium becomes purely academic." he says.

In what is possibly the first purpose-built, high-rise rental building in Forest Hill in 40 years, the Morguard Corporation is launching the Heathview, a new, luxury residential development with two 30-storey towers.

"Rental works in this location. Rental is part of our investment growth strategy. Morguard has a portfolio of existing rental buildings in the GTA and we're looking to grow that portfolio." says Brian Athey, VP Residential at Morguard.

According to Athey, flexibility is a key aspect of rentals as well as security — the peace of mind of knowing that your landlord will never one day take possession of your unit.

Future Heathview tenants Alexis Glinert and her boyfriend had been searching for a suitable rental in Forest Hill. "I didn't really have any interest in buying for a number of reasons. It doesn't seem like a sound investment right now because there's so many that the market value keeps dropping," she says. "When we found out that it was apartments, it was a perfect fit. For us, the location is perfect. When they had their open house, we looked at it and we absolutely loved it."

Rental market growth

Toronto condo think tank, Urbanation, released their Q1-2014 rental market results last week, predicting continued growth for rental demand.

- **"Although competition among landlords has increased since last year, the market is still in their favour and supportive of rent growth," says senior VP, Shaun Hildebrand.**

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Pros dish dirt on how to get the most from your garden

Cream of the crop. Small garden? Limited water? Try these horticultural tips to help plot thicken

How can you get the most yield from a garden where space is limited, and water is too?

Plant smart, and pay attention to the soil.

"Your garden is only as good as your soil," says David Salman, chief horticulturist at High Country Gardens, a Santa Fe, N.M., catalogue that specializes in native and low-water plants.

Find out what nutrients your soil has, and what it's missing, with a soil test. Labs across the country offer this service.

Encourage plant health by fertilizing with natural, organic fertilizers, which include fish emulsion and liquid seaweed, says Salman.

Limit the use of chemical fertilizers because they don't help build the soil.

"You will have more nutritionally complete vegetables if you have healthy soil," he promises.

Healthy soil trick

One trick Salmon recommends, especially for gardeners living in new housing developments, is adding a soil inoculant called mycorrhiza, a beneficial fungi. It's found naturally in healthy soil, but often needs to be added to a new garden.

"New gardens in new subdivisions, their soil is scraped off as part of construction," says Salman. "You need to put beneficial fungi back in."

Peas, beans and soybeans could benefit from legume inoculants, which are species-specific (a soybean inoculant cannot be used to improve peas' growth). Read product labels carefully or ask your gardening centre for assistance.

"Your beans will do OK (without it), but if you really want to crank out the beans, you can do that with the inoculant," says Salman. "It's kind of a 'grandma's secret' to growing great beans."

Vine and dandy

Plants that can offer high yields with low watering include leafy vegetables such as kale, lettuce and spinach; beans, snow peas and sugar snap peas; and some varieties of cucumbers and squash, he says.

Plant vining beans and peas if you have space or can grow them up a fence or trellis; plant bush beans and peas in large pots if space is limited.

Sarah J. Browning, an extension educator for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, suggests planting radishes, carrots, peppers, zucchini and summer squash for summertime bounty.

Peppers grow well in dry conditions, says Browning, and root crops such don't need frequent watering.

Mulch for moisture

"If you watered them well and then mulched them, I think you could get a crop with fairly small amounts of water input," she says.

Plant radishes early in the season or in part shade, and mulch them and other plants to retain moisture and combat weeds.

Browning recommends the cherry tomato cultivar Sun Gold and the slicers Big Beef and Celebrity as great-tasting high producers.

Also look for disease-resistant tomato varieties, which are easier to grow. Browning refers tomato lovers to Pennsylvania State University's College of Agricultural Sciences Extension's "Tomato Report 2011," which lists the best varieties in its tomato trials.

Melissa Ozawa, a features editor for gardening at Martha Stewart Living magazine, recommends growing okra and Swiss chard; both are heat- and drought-tolerant. Melons also can handle less water once established because of their deep root systems, she says.

Read seed packets

Not all vegetables grow well in all regions, so read seed packets, matching days to maturation to your region's growing season, Salman advises.

"One of the big problems with horticulture in this country is everyone tries to be one-size-fits-all, and this is just too big a continent to do that," he says.

"You don't want to grow a 120-day watermelon in Denver.

"They can grow those in Texas, but the maturation period in Denver is much shorter."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Herbs that grow best in a small or water-wise garden include basil, oregano, parsley, thyme and rosemary, says Sarah J. Browning, an extension educator for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, who also suggests planting radishes, carrots, peppers, zucchini and summer squash for summertime bounty.

JOHNNY MILLER/MARTHA STEWART LIVING/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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TD

Herb your enthusiasm

Prolific, water-wise herbs include basil, oregano, parsley, thyme and rosemary, says Sarah J. Browning.

- **David Salman offers space-saving planting tips for herbs: Plant lavender and oregano along the dryer edges of your garden, since they're the most heat-tolerant, and plant Greek oregano and dill, plus annual herbs such as basil and cilantro, among the root vegetables.**
- **Try growing perennials such as rosemary, English thyme, tarragon and lavender in your ornamental beds. They don't require your vegetable garden's mineral-rich soil, says Salman.**

Cutting-edge blooms

Drought-tolerant flower varieties include coneflowers, hummingbird mint, salvia and blanket flowers, according to Melissa Ozawa. Other cutting-garden winners are cosmos, zinnias, sunflowers and larkspur, says David Salman. His favourite late-season bloomer is the Mexican sunflower.

- **"If there's a bee or butterfly in a 10-mile radius, they'll find that Mexican sunflower," he says.**

Make a green sweep

A National Park Service worker tends to the White House kitchen garden on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, in the photo at the right, during a preview for the media of the Spring Garden Tour.

Plants that can offer high yields with low watering include leafy vegetables such as kale, lettuce and spinach; beans, snow peas and sugar snap peas; and some varieties of cucumbers and squash.

SUSAN WALSH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Home maven Martha Stewart speaks today at the Art Of Leadership for Women Conference in Toronto on the good things that inspire her, how to create a work/life balance and more. Prior to her visit to Canada she spoke with Metro Design Centre columnist Karl Lohnes about living in small spaces and ideas for making the inside and out not only attractive, but functional.

KARL LOHNES
homes@metronews.ca

Martha Stewart talks small spaces

KL: If you only had a small outdoor space, would you use it for taking sun and lounging — or eating and entertaining?
MS: Oh, for dining. After dining you can always lounge around. I would definitely have a way to cook outside; there are such fabulous small cooking devices for outside now — very small hibachis that don't take up any space.

You could have two or three small ones that could be stored under a counter when not in use. They don't require large amounts of charcoal and you can cook very nicely on those. I love the clay hibachis with clay bases that you can cook on and they are pretty to look at and they can sit right on top of a table.

If charcoal was not permitted, there are always small electric outdoor grills to consider. I'd have a slate or stone table top so you didn't have to worry about the heat.

I would have comfortable outdoor dining chairs and ottomans; the ottomans could pull up to the table in order to create more seating when needed, and they are comfortable. Plus, then the ottomans can be pulled up to the dining chairs and turn them into a chaise for lounging around outside.

KL: What are some tricks to help expand the inside to the outside during really nice weather?
MS: I do that all the time when the weather gets nice; open the doors and live onto the porch. I have a porch on every one of my houses so I can easily open up the house when the weather is nice.

One thing that I am dying to do is to incorporate a fireplace onto a porch. This would lengthen the amount of time that could be spend outside once the summer season comes to an end. Outdoor carpets, lamps and pillows are an excellent way to make your outside space feel exactly like the inside of your home.

KL: How can we create a sense of privacy on our outdoor spaces?
MS: Most balconies have privacy from above and below but to create privacy from people looking across, you could hang bamboo shades — the roll up-ones that would be very nice to let down, also for sun protection on a hot sunny day. They look outdoorsy and appropriate and when they roll up they disappear.

KL: What are a few ideas to help make a small space feel larger inside?
MS: Well, edit your furniture throughout my entire house in Bedford — no curtains or heavy treatments. They are so pretty. They filter the light and make every room feel very serene.

I suggest ordering them the same colour as your walls to create a calm, monochromatic look.

Mirrors can be just as nice as art; if you hang one at the end of a small room it will make it look twice as big. Everyone knows that trick!

KL: How would you tackle an overstuffed, unorganized bedroom closet?
MS: Editing is the key: Make sure you have at least one organized closet installed somewhere in your apartment. An armoire can be retrofitted to hold a lot of accessories. If you are lucky to have a small storage room, den or nook you could outfit that into a closet as well. Our design team works very hard on the closet organizing systems at Home Depot to give people all sorts of wonderful ideas for storage and organizing tools that can help create tidy and attractive closet space. Also consider storing out-of-season items elsewhere. Don't feel that you have live with everything cramping a small apartment.

KL: What would be the most effective storage options to incorporate into a small kitchen reno?
MS: I love the narrow filler pull-out cupboards that help store spices, cooking oils, canned goods in a very slim space. They are installed between cupboards and drawer units. They're a wonderful way to utilize every square inch of available space in a tiny kitchen. A deep 24-inch cupboard unit should be installed over the refrigerator; they make a great place to hide away large trays, serving bowls or occasional small appliances. I use up every single bit of wall space in my kitchen for storage. I love open shelving for the everyday cups, saucers, bowls, and all the most used cooking items like jars of flour and sugar. This is useful and can also look pretty if you are organized.

A modest proposal: Martha Stewart says the new way of decorating is by editing what you have. CONTRIBUTED

Martha says

"The new way of decorating is to edit what you have."

Martha says

"Don't feel you have to live with everything..."

… The new way of decorating is by editing what you have. Get rid of the extraneous, such as tchotchkes, extra chairs, junk on the tables, curtains. Simplify window treatments. I have beautiful translucent pull-down shades

Martha says

"Make sure you have at least one organized closet..."

Dine out on double-duty

Ultra-comfortable dining chairs offer double-duty for lounging. Charlottetown Chair with Cushions, $199, HomeDepot.ca

Bamboo's got it made in the shade

Roll-up bamboo blinds are a natural way to add privacy and sun protection to a small outdoor porch or balcony.

Rack up spice space savings

Space-saving pull-out spice rack fits comfortably between cabinets and drawers. Martha Stewart kitchens; HomeDepot.ca

Outdoor rugs more stylish than ever

The outdoor floor.
Weave a summer spell with colourful runners and natural grass rugs

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

An outdoor rug can offer more than just comfort underfoot. It can also lighten, brighten and freshen up a dull outdoor space. Fashioned after indoor styles, an outdoor rug can help make your adjoining outdoor space's decor reflect your indoor style — a great way to extend the feeling of your home during warm weather months.

Size: Choose a size of rug that helps to define a sitting area. As in choosing an area rug for the inside of your home, make sure the front legs of your patio furnishings sit on the rug. This will create the perimeter of your outdoor room no matter how large your outdoor space.

Juice up the patio with a shot of orange for the summer months. Miami Lattice Outdoor Rug, 5 x 8 ft., $69, UrbanBarn.com. ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Shape: On a small or squared-shaped deck, consider using a round rug to add a soft line to the outdoor seating space. Consider runner-length carpets for long skinny balconies or a series of square rugs to help define various small areas on the balcony.

Colour: A fashionably coloured rug will help to add personality and create a focal point in a space without a view or other focus.

Neutral and less colourful rugs are perfect to tie a seating plan together without taking away from colourful furnishings.

Materials: Most outdoor rugs are made of synthetic fibres like olefin or polyester and plastic. There are also natural grass weave rugs. These are most suited for covered areas such as balconies or porches.

Although made for outdoors, never dismiss the idea of using an outdoor rug inside your home if you need a durable and affordable carpet. Children's rooms, arts and crafts areas and busy entryways are just a few areas that would fare well with an attractive yet durable carpet.

If planning a special dinner party outside, why not bring your inside rug out and use it for the night? Remembering to bring it inside at the end of the party is most likely the hardest part.

Floor 'em with groovy Union Jack design

Keep calm and confuse your house guests about where they are. Fun and bold Union Jack Outdoor Jockey Red 96 x 120 in. rug, $471, HomeDepot.ca.

Try the round carpet treatment

Add some curve to a boxy-looking patio. Courtyard 6 ft. 7 in. round rug, Natural Terra, $222, eCarpetGallery.com.

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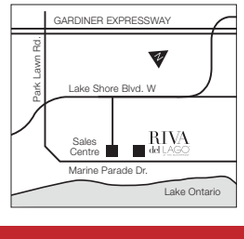

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Make your koi jump for joy: Use a water ionizer to maintain naturally healthy backyard aquaculture. ISTOCK

Water ionizer a greener solution for pond lovers

DIY. Eco-friendly solution keeps pond life sparkling clean

Nothing adds a perfect touch of summer to a patio or garden quite like the soothing look and sound of a backyard pond. But as most pond owners know, it's a season-long struggle to keep the water looking clean and sparkling, instead of cloudy and sickly. The easy, non-chemical solution to pond preservation is a water ionizer, which uses natural minerals to keep a water scene clean, green, and perfect for pet fish.

How to install

The eco-friendly apparatus is a small but worthwhile investment. It comes together with a few easy-to-install parts: A flow chamber, a copper probe, and a control panel. The flow chamber will be connected to the pond's water circulation pump and the copper probe in order to create a low-voltage electrical current. The current creates copper ions, which are then dispersed throughout the pond water and reduce the build-up of algae. The control panel can be used to set the amount of copper ions being produced, depending on the size of the pond.

More backyard solutions

For more backyard solutions, tune in to Yard Crashers, Wednesdays at 10 p.m. ET/PT on DIY Network Canada.

Creating a balance

While the water ionizer prevents the build-up of algae, using it too aggressively may kill the good bacteria, which are essential for the plants and animals in the pond. Making sure that the right amount of copper ions are being deposited can be done by testing the pH level in the pond (it should be between 7.2 and 7.6). Small, occasional use of household cleaners such as bleach may also be used to speed up the effects of the water ionizer without harming wildlife. Chlorine is not recommended, since it may stain the lining of the pond.

Litmus test

7.2-7.6

The ideal pH level for a pond.

Keep it clean

The copper probes for the water ionizer should also be checked on a monthly basis to make sure that they're clean and working properly. Depending on how big or crowded the pond is, they may have to be replaced part-way through the season. Remember that regular maintenance is still very important. Be sure to keep the pump and filter clean, and occasionally vacuum the floor of the pond in order to keep it glistening and healthy!

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BILD

Buildings bring artistic flare

BRYAN TUCKEY
President and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) can be found at twitter.com/bildgta, facebook.com/bildgta, and bildblogs.ca.

In a world-class city, public art can make you stop and take notice of your environment.

Public art plays a big role in creating quality, complete communities and the residents of Toronto are very fortunate to live in a city where new developments include unique, urban installations.

Builders and developers contribute at least one per cent of the gross construction cost of a development toward public art. This is just one example of our industry's commitment to building beautiful cities and enhancing the identity and character of Toronto's great neighbourhoods.

"The role of the art is to spur communication," explains Public Art Management founder Karen Mills. "It adds visual distinction to the city of Toronto, sometimes to reveal history or other aspects of the city to the general public."

The company consults on urban-scale public art installations and memorials for governments, as well as developers in Toronto and Vancouver.

Some people may be surprised to learn that many of the city's public art displays are paid for by new-home and business owners that occupy a new development.

Some notable examples include the red canoe by Concord CityPlace, or the 1,400-pound rubber band sculpture by Festival Tower. Both pieces come with a unique story that's tied to a distinct historical aspect of the neighbourhood.

"The city is built with people coming from all over the world so we should try to reflect the best of the cultures of those places," says Mills.

So the next time you see a piece of public art on the streets of Toronto, think of the home and business owners of the nearby development and thank them for making the GTA a better place to live.

What's hot on the condo market

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Now Open: Park Avenue Place condominiums by Solmar in Vaughan. Visit the presentation centre at Jane Street and Rutherford Road, across from Vaughan Mills.

CONTACT: 905-553-7275, PARKAVENUEPLACE.CA

2. Downtown

Open House: Two-bedroom, open concept condo in the heart of downtown, close to everything. Head on over to 550 Front St. W., on May 31 from 1 to 3 p.m.

CONTACT: 416-849-5360

3. Dundas East

Now on Sale: Daniels One Park Place south tower condominium in downtown east. Buy with five per cent down. See the model suite at 500 Dundas St. E.,

CONTACT: 416-955-0559, DANIELSONEPARKPLACE.COM

4. Banking district

Charity Event: CANstruction, Toronto's top architects and designers build structures out of cans of food for Daily Bread Food Bank. On display until May 31 at TD Towers lobby, 66 Wellington St. W.

CONTACT: CANSTUCTIONTORONTO.ORG

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*Limited time only. **On select suites. See Sales Representative for details. Prices and specifications subject to change without notice. Exclusive Listing Broker, The Condo Store Realty Inc., Brokerage. Brokers Protected. E. & O.E. 2014.

LASH

Loft lifestyle on the river

River City 3 is part of the revitalized West Don Lands. CONTRIBUTED

Meet the condo

- **What.** River City 3
- **Builder.** Urban Capital
- **Location.** King Street East and Lower River Street
- **Website.** rivercitytoronto.com
- **Pricing.** From $199,900 to $1.4M
- **Building.** 29 storeys with 330 loft-style condos
- **Sizes.** From 315 to 2,056 sq. ft.
- **Suites.** Studios, one bedroom, one bedroom plus den, two bedroom, two bedroom plus den, three bedroom, townhouses and penthouses
- **Occupancy.** November 15, 2017

The project overview

Winner of BILD's best design award, River City is a LEED Gold community of over 1,100 loft-style condominiums, family-friendly townhouses, and ground floor retail; a vital part of the revitalized West Don Lands and the city's waterfront redevelopment.

Location and transit

Spanning the area from King Street East to the new Corktown Common, residents will have access to the nearby King and Queen streetcar routes. Motorists will enjoy proximity to the Don Valley Parkway and the Gardiner Expressway.

In the neighbourhood

River City is located near the historic Distillery District as well as the Underpass Park, the Martin Goodman Trail and the Lower Don Trail, where you can connect directly to over 1,800 kilometrs of pathways and trails.

Building amenities

Featuring a fully equipped, 2,000 sq. ft. fitness facility, an extended office space for work-at-home types, a playroom and a hobby room. There's a pet-cleaning station and a "product library" where you can rent those things you sometimes need.

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The Blue Jays' Melky Cabrera watches the ball after laying down a bunt in the first inning against the Tampa Bay Rays in Toronto on Wednesday. DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blue Jays push win streak to 9 games

MLB. Walk-off victory earns Toronto third sweep in a row

The Toronto Blue Jays extended their winning streak to nine games in dramatic fashion Wednesday night with a 3-2 walk-off victory over the Tampa Bay Rays at Rogers Centre.

With pinch-runner Kevin Pillar aboard after Dioner Navarro opened the bottom of the ninth with a single, Anthony Gose dropped a nice bunt down the first-base line. Reliever Juan Carlos Oviedo (1-1) threw wide to first and Pillar came all the way around to score the winning run.

Aaron Loup (2-1) worked one inning of relief for the win as Toronto completed a three-game sweep. The American League East-leading Blue Jays improved to 32-22 while the Rays fell to 23-31.

Toronto struck early with two runs in the first inning.

Jose Reyes kicked off Tampa Bay starter Chris Archer's 26-pitch frame with a single up the middle. He moved to third when Jose Bautista hit a flare into shallow right field and both runners scored on Edwin Encarnacion's single.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On Wednesday

Blue Jays	Rays
3	2

L.A. Clippers

Sterlings may sell team before Donald booted

Shelly Sterling is reviewing bids from five groups interested in buying the Los Angeles Clippers, and a deal could be struck before next week's owners meeting provided both she and her estranged husband Donald relinquish total ownership in the team.

A person with knowledge of the negotiations told The Associated Press on Wednesday if an agreement to sell is reached before next Tuesday, the league's owners wouldn't meet in New York to vote on terminating Donald Sterling's ownership.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AHL

Marlies fall apart in 3rd vs. Stars

Travis Morin and Kevin Henderson had third period goals leading the Texas Stars to a 3-2 win over the Toronto Marlies on Wednesday in American Hockey League playoff action.

Patrik Nemeth had the other Stars goal, who won for the second time in three nights. Texas has a 2-1 series lead in the best-of-seven Western Conference final. Cristopher Nilstorp made 20 saves in the win.

T.J. Brennan had both goals for the Marlies, who started the AHL playoffs with a perfect 8-0 record. Drew MacIntyre stopped 27 shots in the loss.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kings look to wrap up series

Jonathan Quick of the Los Angeles Kings makes a save against Brandon Saad of the Chicago Blackhawks during Game 5 of the Western Conference final on Wednesday in Chicago. For the result of the game and more coverage go to metronews.ca. TASOS KATOPODIS/GETTY IMAGES

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Photo: Canada Soccer / Paul Ciamou. *Some conditions apply.

Toronto FC's Jeremy Hall jumps for the ball past Montreal Impact's Felipe on Wednesday night at BMO Field. The clubs played to a 1-1 draw in the first leg of the Amway Canadian Championship. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

De Rosario, TFC settle for first-leg draw with Impact

Amway Championship. Toronto striker misfires on multiple attempts in Round 1 of title opener

Justin Mapp scored on Montreal's only shot on net Wednesday night, as the Impact salvaged a 1-1 draw with Toronto FC in the first leg of the Amway Canadian Championship.

Doneil Henry scored the lone goal for Toronto.

The draw could be considered a win for Montreal, since road goals carry more weight. If next Wednesday's second leg in Montreal is a 0-0 tie, the Impact win based on Mapp's goal at BMO Field.

TFC is gunning to regain the title they relinquished last year to the Impact. The winner represents Canada in the CONCACAF Champions League.

Henry leapt to head home a corner from Daniel Lovitz in the 20th minute, a shot Impact goalkeeper Evan Bush had little chance of stopping.

The goal was a positive — finally — for Henry, who's been mired in negatives lately. In Toronto's 2-2 draw at Sporting Kansas City on Friday, a foul by the defender inside the box cost the team a penalty shot.

Mapp tied the game in the 70th, dribbling through Toronto's back line and beating a lunging Steven Caldwell to fire a shot past 'keeper Joe Bendik.

Toronto controlled the ball for much of a game that saw few scoring chances.

Dwayne De Rosario, who is tied for the tournament's all-time lead in goals with four and won back-to-back tournament MVP honours (2009 and '10), almost put Toronto up by two in the 58th minute when he rung a hard shot off the crossbar, drawing groans from the crowd at BMO Field. DeRosario sat on the turf in disbelief at his bad luck.

He had another great chance in the 70th, lobbing a high ball over the head of Bush but Heath Pearce was there to head the ball off the goal-line.

De Rosario would have a third chance in the 84th minute, when TFC was awarded a free kick just outside the 18-yard box, but he fired it high of the net. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fantastic four

4

Toronto has won four of the six Canadian titles, claiming four in a row from 2009 to 2012. The Impact won the inaugural tournament in 2008, and again last year.

On Wednesday

Impact	Toronto FC
1	1

- The winner between TFC and Montreal will join CONCACAF Champions League Group 3 with the New York Red Bulls (U.S.) and FAS (El Salvador).
- The groups will be contested in a round-robin, home-and-away format from August to October. The eight group winners advance to the quarter-finals. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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TD

Aaron Hernandez

Spilled drink led to 2012 murders: Prosecutors

Prosecutors say former New England Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez gunned down two men in their car in 2012 after one of them accidentally bumped into him at a Boston nightclub, spilling a drink.

Hernandez pleaded not guilty in Suffolk Superior Court Wednesday afternoon in the shooting deaths of Daniel de Abreu and Safiro Furtado. A third man was wounded.

Aaron Hernandez GETTY IMAGES

Prosecutors say Hernandez became agitated and told a friend that de Abreu had deliberately bumped him. Prosecutors say Hernandez later tracked down de Abreu and his friends and opened fire on their car. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World Cup

Hawking offers up tips to England

Stephen Hawking has turned his brilliant mind toward perhaps his toughest challenge yet — helping England win the World Cup.

Britain's most famous scientist, known for his theories on physics and the universe, has been commissioned by a betting company to analyze data from every World Cup England has qualified for since winning in 1966 in the hopes of coming up with a winning formula.

His conclusion: Roy Hodgson's team has the best chance of winning in Brazil if it avoids high temperatures, adopts an aggressive 4-3-3 formation and wears red.

Hawking, who is known for his sense of humour, then said he found it more difficult to make sense of soccer than explain the mysteries of the universe. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

French Open. Raonic and Bouchard advance in Paris

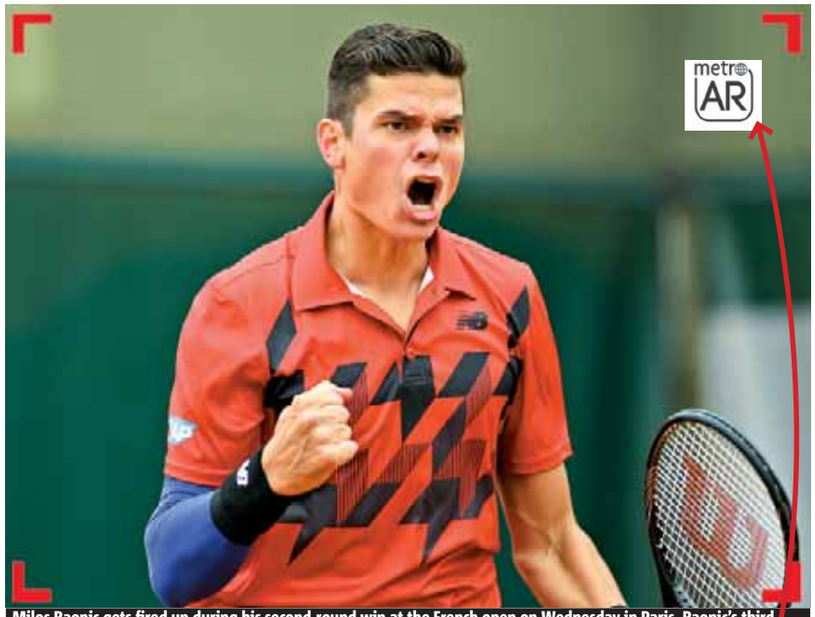
Milos Raonic bounced back from a troublesome first match and Eugenie Bouchard overcame a worrying first set as Canada's top singles tennis players advanced to the third round of the French Open.

Bouchard managed a 2-6, 6-2, 6-1 come-from-behind win over German Julia Goerges on Wednesday, while eighth-seeded Raonic beat Czech Jiri Vesely 7-6 (4), 6-4, 6-1 to reach the third round for a third consecutive year.

Raonic, from Thornhill, came back from a break down in the first set and won the hour-long opener in a tiebreak before taking control of the match.

Raonic said he is noticing signs of improvement on court after struggling somewhat in his opening match, a 6-3, 7-6, 6-3 win over Australian qualifier Nick Kyrgios.

"I feel like I'm playing better today than I did three days ago, I think I dealt a little bit better with when I got things figured out as far as intensity," he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Milos Raonic gets fired up during his second-round win at the French open on Wednesday in Paris. Raonic's third-round opponent is 29th seed Gilles Simon of France, who will have a partisan crowd behind him. MATTHIAS HANGST/GETTY IMAGES

Scan the image with your Metro News app for more coverage from a wild Wednesday at Roland Garros.

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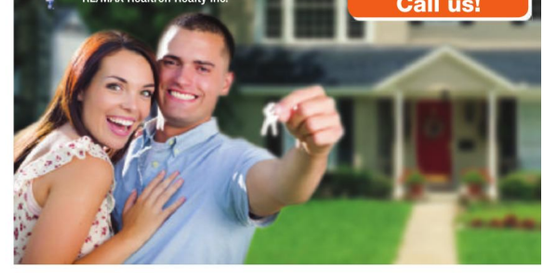

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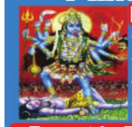

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
If you lose interest in what you are doing today it's a sign you are doing the wrong thing. A change of scene will help but in the long-term you may have to change your lifetime ambitions.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You need to show your vulnerable side. Too often you give the impression that nothing can bring you down when, in reality, you are as sensitive as everyone else.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You may be a bit touchy over the next 24 hours. With your ruler Mercury moving into sensitive Cancer if there is anything worrying you it is sure to show up. Don't try to avoid it.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Social activities are under excellent stars today and the best way relax is to seek out people who think and act is similar ways to you. Looking for love? Find it with someone who shares your cultural interests.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Your confidence will get a boost today and you will be a lot more relaxed about your social and professional status. One door may have closed to you but within a matter of days, another door will open.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Money may be important to you but it must not be allowed to come ahead of more important things such as love and laughter. Don't think about what you own and earn, think about what motivates you.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
If there has been a dispute, now is the time to patch things up. That applies to all areas of your life but especially to business issues. There's always a solution.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Your creative powers will be at their height over the next 24 hours, so make good use of them. Also, take your pleasures where you find them and don't listen to those who say you should be more cautious.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You may have tasks to complete but now is not the time to get busy on them. As Venus, planet of harmony, moves into the wellbeing area of your chart today your best course of action is to take life easy.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Something you found difficult before will come easier to you today. You may still have to struggle in other areas but the planets will generally give your spirits a lift and help you believe that most things are possible.

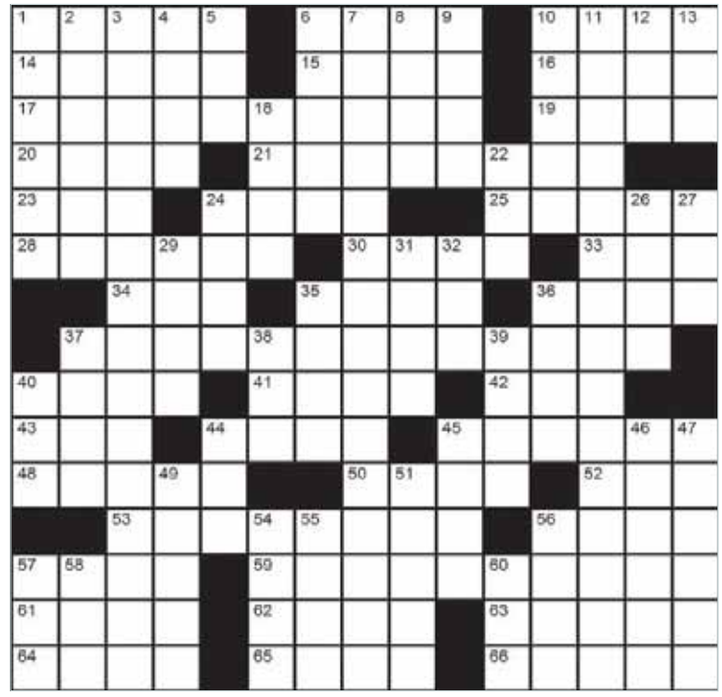
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Sometimes you get so caught up in making a living that you forget there are people who love you so much they don't care what you achieve. One such person will delight you.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Don't worry that others might think less of you if you ease off. Worry only that if you don't take better care of yourself you might come to harm. The planets urge you to take things at a slower pace. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

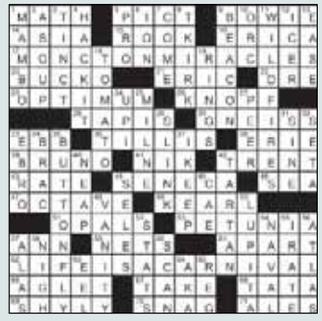
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Jubilant, poetry-style
6. Cole Porter's "Miss __ Regrets"
10. Lemony
14. Prepares potatoes
15. Stethoscope sound
16. Ms. Sanders
17. Canada's 'Big Five' gig: 2 wds.
19. Rob Roy, for one
20. Alberta town
21. Canadian cartoon series, "My __ Is Evil"
23. Bond
24. Manage
25. DQ's 'D'
28. Feels
30. Dry: Spanish
33. '_' __ in Victoria
34. Spoil
35. "The Simpsons" bus driver
36. Slammer
37. Toronto-born singer/songwriter who has rocked with Legendary Hearts: 2 wds.
40. Funny lady Imogene
41. God: Latin
42. "Unbelievable" hitmakers
43. "Entourage" superagent
44. Espionage: Mata __
45. Hurriedly depart again, say
48. Mountain chain
50. Dianetics guru, _. __ Hubbard
52. Poetic preposition
53. Prepped the sewing needle
56. "Top _' __ mornin' to you!"
57. Music's Ma
59. CTV series "Motive", for example: 2 wds.
61. "Lend me your __ and I'll sing..." - The Beatles
62. Knee, medical-style
63. Try to unearth: 2 wds.
64. Proofreading term
65. Slumps
66. Heavens

Down
1. Friary figures
2. Net minder
3. St. Lawrence, Newfoundland born journalist/writer: 2 wds.
4. Bugling beasts
5. 'Earn' ender (Sincere)
6. Low ship deck
7. First Canadian Place in Toronto is Canada's what?: 2 wds.
8. '50s series, "_ __ Three Lives"
9. Feudal worker
10. "Battle of the Blades" champ Ms. Bonhomme
11. Some of the National Film Board's treasures: 2 wds.
12. Copacabana city
13. "Ka-boom!" stuff
18. Me-me-me's
22. Testimony-giver's oath: 2 wds.
24. Particle physics lab near Geneva
26. Staircase support
27. Posh wallet's lettering
29. Hall & Oates' "__ Smile"
31. Quebec 'summers'
32. Scam
35. Terminer's court pal
36. Doorway part
37. Tropical island, when doubled
38. Ms. LeShan
39. Jukebox tune: "__ Angel"
40. Vehicle variety
44. Lady
45. Took the bus
46. Canadian actress who plays Detective Angie Flynn on the show at #59-Across, Kristin __
47. Dog training incentives
49. 1990 movie blockbuster
51. Romulus and __
54. Hosp. heart recordings
55. Locale
56. "I have no money __ _ _ on me." (Stolen-wallet-person's conundrum)
57. Uh-huh
58. Cereal grass
60. Ike's Presidential monogram

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

					5	2		
			3	8		4		
5	1	9				6		
3			4		8		5	
	6						8	
	7		9		2			1
		2				8	4	6
		7		3	6			
		8	2					

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	9	4	6	5	8	3	7	2
6	3	2	1	7	9	8	5	4
8	7	5	4	3	2	6	9	1
3	1	7	2	9	5	4	8	6
4	5	8	7	1	6	2	3	9
9	2	6	3	8	4	7	1	5
7	4	9	5	2	3	1	6	8
5	6	3	8	4	1	9	2	7
2	8	1	9	6	7	5	4	3

Today
19°/12°
Partly cloudy

Friday
23°/11°
Variable

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ELANTRA L MANUAL. DEALER INVOICE PRICE INCLUDES $1,197 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS◊, FEES (UP TO $499), DELIVERY AND DESTINATION.

OR

2014 ELANTRA GT

HWY: 5.8L/100 KM
CITY: 8.5L/100 KM▼

SE w/ Tech model shown♦
Selling Price: $26,863

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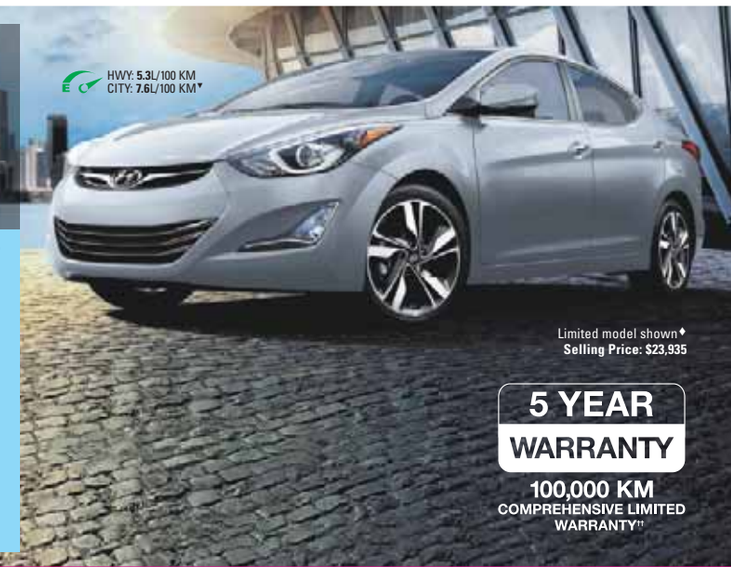

HWY: 5.3L/100 KM
CITY: 7.6L/100 KM▼

Limited model shown♦
Selling Price: $23,935

5 YEAR WARRANTY
100,000 KM COMPREHENSIVE LIMITED WARRANTY††

HWY: 5.3L/100 KM
CITY: 7.5L/100 KM▼

GLS model shown♦
Selling Price: $19,415

2014 ACCENT 4-DOOR L

DEALER INVOICE PRICE: $14,397‡ PLUS HST.

PLUS

OWN IT FOR $69 BI-WEEKLY PAYMENT

WITH 0%† FINANCING FOR 96 MONTHS

AND $0 DOWN

ACCENT L 4-DOOR MANUAL. DEALER INVOICE PRICE INCLUDES $783 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS◊, FEES (UP TO $499), DELIVERY AND DESTINATION.

HWY: 7.3L/100 KM
CITY: 10.2L/100 KM▼

Limited model shown♦
Selling Price: $38,584

2014 SANTA FE SPORT

DEALER INVOICE PRICE: $27,414‡ PLUS HST.

PLUS

OWN IT FOR $137 BI-WEEKLY PAYMENT

WITH 0.9%† FINANCING FOR 96 MONTHS

AND $0 DOWN

SANTA FE SPORT 2.4L FWD. DEALER INVOICE PRICE INCLUDES $1,316 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS◊, FEES (UP TO $499), DELIVERY AND DESTINATION.

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5 YEAR WARRANTY

5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty††
5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

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